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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE OIL PROJECT

PUBLIC COMMENTS

September 29, 2011

Best Western Ramkota

920 West Sioux Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota

57502

12:00 p.m.

Reported by:

CHARLES D. HOFFMAN

1 APPEARANCES

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3 JAMES STEELE, U.S. Department of State, presiding officer.

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PROCEEDINGS

(12:00 P.M.)

MR. STEELE: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to go ahead and get the meeting started. We have a goodly number that would like to make comments. So let's go ahead and get started, so that we can make the best use of our time.

Hello, good afternoon, my name is Jim Steele. I am from the U.S. Department of State, the United States Department of State. On behalf of the Department of State, we would like to thank you for joining us here in Pierre, South Dakota at this public meeting on the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline. We recognize that this is an important issue, and we value your input.

The purpose of this meeting is for members of the public to express their views on whether issuing a presidential permit for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline is in the national interest. To focus time and attention on your comments, we will not be answering questions at this or at any of the other public meetings that are taking place this week in

1 Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Montana and in  
2 Washington D.C. next month.

3 We appreciate the interest of every single  
4 individual in this room to take the time to share  
5 your perspectives on this issue. We take your  
6 comments seriously and will consider them carefully.  
7 We understand that there are strong views and  
8 feelings about this issue. This is an opportunity  
9 for you to express those views. But we ask that you  
10 respect the rules that we have established, so that  
11 we can hear from as many people as possible today.  
12 We ask that you be fair and respectful to everyone  
13 who has taken the time to come here.

14 Before we begin, I would like to describe the  
15 Department of State's role in the presidential  
16 permitting process and to lay out the ground rules  
17 for participating in today's meeting.

18 In September of 2008, TransCanada Keystone  
19 Pipeline LP filed an application for a presidential  
20 permit for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline.  
21 Executive Order 13337 signed on April 30th, 2004,  
22 delegates to the Department of State the authority  
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1 to issue a presidential permit for facilities, such  
2 as Keystone XL Pipeline, that cross the United  
3 States' border.

4 In considering a permit, the Department of  
5 State determines whether allowing the border  
6 crossing is in the United States' national interest,  
7 taking into account environmental and safety issues  
8 as well as energy security, foreign policy and  
9 social and economic concerns.

10 In addition to the executive order, the  
11 department determined, because of the importance of  
12 this proposed pipeline, that it should evaluate the  
13 pipeline's possible environmental and safety  
14 impacts, consistent with the National Environmental  
15 Policy Act, or NEPA. As a consequence, the State  
16 Department prepared an environmental impact  
17 statement, consistent with NEPA, to evaluate the  
18 proposed pipeline's potential environmental and  
19 safety impacts.

20 In preparing that environmental impact  
21 statement over the last 2 1/2 years, we have  
22 conducted 41 public meetings along the pipeline

1 route and in Washington D.C. in order to gather  
2 public comments in developing the scope and the  
3 draft of the environmental impact statement.

4 On August 26th, we released the final  
5 environmental impact statement, which addresses the  
6 more than 250,000 comments from the public that we  
7 received during the public comment period. The  
8 final environmental impact statement is just one  
9 factor considered in the review process. The final  
10 environmental impact statement does not represent a  
11 final decision on the permit application.

12 Now, as we move toward the national interest  
13 determination, the Department of State is compiling  
14 additional information to determine if the proposed  
15 Keystone XL Pipeline is in the national interest and  
16 to decide whether to grant or deny the permit.

17 The ground rules for the meeting today. In  
18 order to maximize public participation and to be  
19 fair to the participants, we ask that you abide by  
20 these rules of order. We hope to have the  
21 opportunity to listen to everyone that wishes to  
22 speak. But in order to allow the maximum amount of

1 participation, we ask you to limit your comments to  
2 three minutes. Given the interest in this issue, it  
3 may not be possible for everyone in attendance here  
4 today to speak. If you do not have the opportunity  
5 to speak, you can still provide your written  
6 comments on the back of the information sheet that  
7 was handed to you when you came into the building  
8 today. You can write your comments on that sheet  
9 and leave them either at the table in the back or  
10 the table up in front, preferably at the table in  
11 the back. You can also mail your comments in. You  
12 can fax them in. You can e-mail them or you can  
13 submit your comments online. We will consider all  
14 comments that are received, but we ask that you  
15 submit those comments by October 9th.

16         Speakers will make their comments today on a  
17 first come, first served basis, by assigned number,  
18 having signed in personally at the door outside.  
19 After one speaker ends, the next number and name  
20 will be called, and to speed things up, I'll  
21 probably wind up calling four speakers at a time, so  
22 that you have time to prepare yourself to come on  
23

1 up.

2 Since we can not anticipate exactly how long a  
3 person will speak, we can't really tell you exactly  
4 when you will be up to speak. When your number is  
5 called, we ask that you come to the microphone,  
6 state your name, affiliation, and offer your  
7 comments. And please note that there are two sets  
8 of microphones.

9 As you speak in time in that three minute  
10 interval, a card will be displayed when you have one  
11 minute remaining and when your time is up. That  
12 card says thank you; we appreciate your comments,  
13 but it's time to finish up so somebody else can have  
14 a chance.

15 If you run out of time, again, you can submit  
16 your comments in written form. And I assure you  
17 that they will be considered. They will have the  
18 same weight as if you had delivered them orally.

19 Again, the handout specifies the procedures you  
20 can take to e-mail, fax or mail your comments in.  
21 All oral comments and written comments will be  
22 considered as part of our decision. They will be  
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1 reviewed by the Department of State and during the  
2 decision making process. Your oral comments here  
3 today will be recorded and then transcribed by a  
4 court reporter. Other written comments will be  
5 accepted, again, until October 9th.

6 Department of State officials are here to  
7 listen to your comments, so that they can be  
8 considered. We will not be in a question and answer  
9 session today. Again, we understand that there are  
10 strong views on this issue, and we ask that in  
11 fairness to everyone concerned, those who choose to  
12 speak be allowed to do so without interruption. We  
13 request that no signs, no displays be posted in the  
14 building.

15 As we mentioned earlier, please do keep your  
16 remarks to no more than three minutes, and please be  
17 respectful of others. I ask also that you turn off  
18 cell phones or set them to the silent setting. We  
19 plan on ending this meeting at 8:00 o'clock this  
20 evening. We will break for 30 minutes at about 3:30  
21 and resume at about 4:00 o'clock.

22 I would like to stress, once again, that the  
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1 Department of State has not yet made a decision on  
2 this matter. That is the purpose of this meeting,  
3 to give members of the public the opportunity to  
4 make comments that will be considered when we are  
5 deciding whether to issue or to grant or whether to  
6 deny that application for the presidential permit.

7 Thank you very much for your interest, and  
8 thank you very much for coming to this meeting.  
9 Before I start with the speakers, I would like to  
10 call please Mr. Nathan Sanderson, the policy advisor  
11 to Governor Daugaard, who will deliver a short  
12 statement on behalf of the governor.

13 MR. SANDERSON: Thank you Mr. Steele.  
14 Again, my name is Nathan Sanderson, I'm a policy  
15 advisor to South Dakota Governor, Dennis Daugaard.  
16 I've got a letter on the governor's behalf,  
17 addressed to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

18 "Secretary Clinton, as you know, the U.S.  
19 Department of State published the final  
20 environmental impact statement for Keystone XL  
21 Pipeline Project and is now holding public meetings  
22 to collect comments and determine if the project is  
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1 in the national interest. Thank you for holding  
2 this public meeting in South Dakota. It is  
3 important that people have the opportunity to voice  
4 their comments. This is especially true for private  
5 landowners whose land may be crossed by the proposed  
6 pipeline.

7 Much of the land in South Dakota that will be  
8 crossed by the pipeline is private property, and  
9 landowners hold a precious, even sacred, bond to  
10 their land. South Dakota's environment and water  
11 resources are critically important to our ability to  
12 live here as well.

13 Based on the conclusions of the environmental  
14 impact statement, I believe the Keystone XL Pipeline  
15 can and will be safely operated in South Dakota.  
16 But I do not rely solely on the federal  
17 environmental impact statement to reach that  
18 conclusion. The 2008 South Dakota State  
19 Legislature, sharing many of your concerns, required  
20 the formation of the South Dakota Underground  
21 Pipeline Task Force to evaluate the adequacy of  
22 existing regulations pertaining to pipelines in

1     South Dakota. The task force, after a thorough  
2     public review of all aspects of pipeline operation  
3     in South Dakota, determined existing laws and  
4     regulations were adequate to ensure the safe and  
5     reliable operation in our state. If you would like  
6     to review the task force's findings, the final  
7     report is available on the Department of Environment  
8     and Natural Resources website.

9             In addition, both the Keystone and Keystone XL  
10     Pipeline Projects have been thoroughly vetted  
11     through the South Dakota Public Utility Commission's  
12     permitting process. This process included  
13     significant public input and formal hearings to  
14     review the facts and concluded for both pipelines,  
15     in the issuance of permits by the commission.

16            One of the many facts discussed was the  
17     economic benefit of the project for South Dakota.  
18     Between 1,100 and 1,400 workers will be employed  
19     during construction, and once in operation, the  
20     Keystone XL Pipeline will generate approximately 10  
21     million dollars per year in property taxes, boosting  
22     revenue for affected local governments and school

1 districts. Extensive public records from the  
2 hearing process for both pipelines are now available  
3 on the website of the Public Utilities Commission.  
4 We now have even more evidence to support the  
5 conclusion that the operation of the Keystone XL  
6 Pipeline will be done safely and reliably.

7 TransCanada conducted an emergency field  
8 exercise during September 2010 and the results were  
9 deemed a success. In addition, TransCanada has  
10 responded in a timely and appropriate manner to four  
11 minor pump station releases on the existing Keystone  
12 XL Pipeline in South Dakota.

13 The stated purpose of this hearing is to  
14 determine if the Keystone XL Pipeline is in the  
15 national interest. There has been much recent focus  
16 by President Obama and the U.S. Congress on growing  
17 our national economy and creating jobs. In South  
18 Dakota, we share those goals. One avenue we are  
19 pursuing is to mimic the success of our North Dakota  
20 neighbors by building new tools to encourage and  
21 promote more oil and gas exploration and  
22 development.

1           However, one of the limiting factors for oil  
2   and gas development in the region is a lack of  
3   pipelines available to move crude oil to market.  
4   The Keystone XL Pipeline through the Bakken market  
5   link helps alleviate this problem. Through this  
6   link, up to 100,000 barrels per day of crude oil  
7   from the Williston Basin will be transported to U.S.  
8   refining markets. The region needs more pipeline  
9   capacity to maximize our oil and gas production.  
10   The Keystone XL Pipeline will provide some of this  
11   needed capacity, which in turn will benefit domestic  
12   oil production.

13           In short, I urge you to grant approval to build  
14   the Keystone XL Pipeline. Thank you again for  
15   bringing this public meeting to South Dakota.  
16   Sincerely, South Dakota Governor, Dennis Daugaard."

17           With your permission, Mr. Steele.

18   (Applause.)

19           MR. STEELE: Okay, let's get started  
20   please. I would like to call Mr. John Meyer, Mr.  
21   Jim Doolittle and Ms. Karen Wagner, please.

22           MR. MEYER: Thank you for the opportunity

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1 to speak today. I'm representing small businesses  
2 in South Dakota. As a business owner of 30 years  
3 and former president of the South Dakota Retail  
4 Association, whether directly or indirectly, all  
5 businesses are reliant on a stable oil supply, which  
6 is why I signed on with the Partnership to Fuel  
7 America. This new group of business leaders and  
8 companies and opinion leaders have come together to  
9 promote stable and secure North American energy  
10 development. By developing the North American  
11 energy resources, the United States will create  
12 thousands of jobs right here in America, while also  
13 increasing our security by decreasing our dependence  
14 on unstable oil producers, such as the Middle East.

15 Increasing demands on the same oil from China  
16 and India will only limit supply and drive up  
17 prices. One of the first issues the Partnership to  
18 Fuel America is focused on is the proposed Keystone  
19 XL Pipeline expansion. The Keystone Pipeline  
20 carries crude oil from the tar sands in Canada and  
21 drops it off at refineries in the Midwest and Texas.  
22 The proposed expansion to this system would increase

1 the capacity of the pipeline from 591,000 barrels a  
2 day to 1 million barrels a day, in addition to the  
3 opportunities to using our own states with oil  
4 resources, such as Wyoming, North Dakota, Montana  
5 and South Dakota.

6 Building the Keystone expansion will pump  
7 thousands of dollars into South Dakota's economy,  
8 while bringing hundreds, if not thousands of workers  
9 to our state. And even though I'm not a  
10 construction worker or manufacturer, I joined the  
11 Partnership to Fuel America because, as a business  
12 owner, I recognize that these workers and dollars  
13 will have an energizing effect on our state and  
14 region.

15 Many businesses along the construction route,  
16 including mine, will see more customers and higher  
17 profits. Between new jobs and new workers  
18 relocating here, living in the area and spending  
19 more money, our region and South Dakota as a whole  
20 will see over 10 million in state and local  
21 revenues.

22 I see value in this pipeline beyond just more  
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1     than customers walking through my doors. Everyone  
2     will benefit, and it will be a welcome boom to our  
3     economy. At the end of the day, both businesses and  
4     individuals, the backbone of our entire economy are  
5     relying on Keystone XL Pipeline for more than just  
6     stable oil. They are relying on it as a stable  
7     economy and a better life.

8             South Dakota has a balanced budget due to  
9     leaders that believe and understand business. I  
10    hope our leaders recognize the investment and return  
11    of partnership with TransCanada Keystone Pipeline  
12    will bring to our state. Let's not regulate and  
13    litigate like other states that are millions and  
14    billions in the hole. Thank you TransCanada for  
15    your investment in America. Thank you.

16    (Applause.)

17             MR. STEELE: Can I verify that you are  
18    John Meyer?

19             MR. MEYER: Pardon?

20             MR. STEELE: Are you John Meyer?

21             MR. MEYER: Yes.

22             MR. STEELE: Okay. Please, as you come  
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1 forward to speak, please remember to state your name  
2 and your affiliation, thank you.

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, my name is Jim  
4 Doolittle. My wife and I are landowners and  
5 ranchers in Harding County, which is located in the  
6 northwestern part of the state, close to the North  
7 Dakota, Montana borders. We are member of the  
8 Partnership to Fuel America and the proposed  
9 pipeline will cross approximately four miles of our  
10 property.

11 Thank you for conducting this hearing in South  
12 Dakota, and to begin with, I would like to say that  
13 we are very strong supporters of the project. We  
14 have been since we first heard of it three or four  
15 years ago and continue to be.

16 We think this is a tremendous opportunity for  
17 America, North America, not only the local economy,  
18 where it will help increase the tax base for local  
19 subdivisions like school districts, counties,  
20 cities, but more importantly, the national interest.  
21 We think that's the biggest issue.

22 The proposed pipeline will provide a stable oil  
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1 supply from a friendly trade neighbor, meaning  
2 Canada, and also provide jobs for U.S. workers. We  
3 think this is a safe and efficient way to transport  
4 oil, and we think it is needed for our economy.

5 As landowners, will there be inconveniences?

6 Yes, there will be probably some temporary  
7 inconveniences. But the positives, the advantages,  
8 far outweigh any temporary inconvenience. We feel  
9 this will be the safest pipeline in the world, and  
10 it's needed. This is really a no-brainer. The  
11 advantages far outweigh any disadvantages.

12 I'd be glad to answer any questions you have.

13 You have my name, I think. Thank you for the time.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. WAGNER: Good afternoon, my name is  
16 Karen Wagner. I was born, raised and have lived in  
17 South Dakota my entire life. My husband and I are  
18 ranchers and landowners and the proposed Keystone  
19 TransCanada Pipeline will go through our land. I am  
20 here today to verbally express my support of the  
21 pipeline project. The project will provide an  
22 economic boost to our rural communities and our

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1 state.

2 In addition to the positive economic boost, it  
3 is an opportunity to establish national security for  
4 America. Energy to fuel America is a necessity, and  
5 this pipeline provides a source close to our  
6 homeland via a route that is environmentally sound.

7 Again, I support the pipeline and encourage  
8 approval of the project, and I thank you for the  
9 opportunity to be heard today.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. STEELE: I remind you again that we do  
12 have another podium over here, which you can  
13 certainly use. The only thing I will ask is please  
14 check to make sure the microphone is on before you  
15 speak. Next, I would like to call Mr. Benjamin  
16 Snow, Ms. Blaise Emerson, Mr. Tom Sundly and Mr.  
17 Gary Lindblad.

18 MR. SNOW: Good afternoon, my name is  
19 Benjamin Snow. I am the president of Rapid City  
20 Economic Development Partnership, and we are also  
21 supportive of the Partnership to Fuel America.

22 Rapid City is the economic epicenter of not  
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1     only Western South Dakota but for a region covering  
2     57 counties and 5 different states, extending 200  
3     miles from downtown Rapid City, and serving a  
4     population of over 470,000.

5             Allow me to share with you a letter we  
6     delivered to Secretary of State Clinton just last  
7     week, with copies to the South Dakota Congressional  
8     Delegation.

9             "Dear Secretary Clinton:

10            We are writing to express our strong support  
11     for EIS findings on the Keystone XL Pipeline and to  
12     urge you to approve the project by granting the  
13     presidential permit needed for construction to  
14     begin. We believe moving forward on this project is  
15     in the best interests of our region and country, and  
16     fully support it for three important reasons:

17            Number one, economic growth. Keystone XL will  
18     provide significant economic benefits for our  
19     nation, state and region. The pipeline is expected  
20     to create approximately 20,000 manufacturing and  
21     construction jobs in the United States. It is  
22     expected to result in over 5 1/2 billion in new

1     spending in the Keystone XL corridor states,  
2     including 470 million in South Dakota.

3             It will also generate an additional 5.2 billion  
4     in property taxes during the operating life of the  
5     pipeline. At a time when state and local  
6     governments across the country are struggling to  
7     balance their budgets, these employment and revenue  
8     benefits are critical to our region.

9             Number two, energy security. By increasing our  
10    access to energy supplies in Canada, our neighbor  
11    and loyal ally, as well as domestic supplies from  
12    the Bakken formation here at home, the pipeline will  
13    be critical to our country's efforts to reduce our  
14    dependence on middle eastern and Venezuelan oil, by  
15    as much as 40 percent. By providing refineries  
16    along the Texas Gulf Coast with more than 700,000  
17    barrels of oil each day from domestic and Canadian  
18    resources, this pipeline will dramatically reduce  
19    our reliance on oil imports from volatile regions of  
20    the world.

21            Number three, environmental sensitivity. As  
22    leaders from the region that the Keystone Pipeline

1 will traverse, we applaud and respect the Department  
2 of State's thoroughness, during the approval  
3 process, and appreciate the multiple opportunities  
4 for public input on the project, and it's potential  
5 impact on the environment.

6 The State Department has fully analyzed the  
7 project's environmental impact and the final EIS  
8 rightfully concludes that there are no substantial  
9 environmental concerns that should prevent  
10 construction of this valuable energy infrastructure  
11 project. We also have confidence that TransCanada  
12 will be a good steward of the land and that Keystone  
13 XL will be constructed using industry best practices  
14 and will meet or exceed all existing pipeline  
15 regulatory standards.

16 The Keystone XL Pipeline is clearly in the  
17 nation's interest and will be a valuable tool in  
18 strengthening our economy, energy security and  
19 national security. Therefore, we respectfully  
20 request that, upon completion of this review period,  
21 the Department of State move expeditiously to  
22 approve the pipeline and grant TransCanada the

1 presidential permit it needs to proceed. Sincerely,

2 Benjamin Snow, president; Al Rieman, chairman."

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. EMERSON: Blaise Emerson, executive

6 director for Black Hills Community Economic

7 Development.

8 Black Hills Community Economic Development

9 believes that this project is in the national

10 interest of the United States for three different

11 reasons:

12 First, environmentally. Pipelines are one of

13 the safest ways to transport this type of commodity

14 through our region. Second, the EIS for this has

15 found that this route is one of the most

16 environmentally sound routes that they have

17 identified.

18 On the second point, on the economy. This will

19 be a strong impact to the local economy, through

20 property taxes, for providing a stable property

21 base, also through sales tax revenue into many of

22 our local communities, especially our small

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1 communities, where this is a huge impact onto those  
2 communities.

3 I also wanted to touch base just a little bit  
4 on the national security issue, also, of this  
5 project. We are looking at a project that has  
6 impact with one of our longest, friendliest  
7 neighbors that we've had in our nation's history,  
8 which is Canada. We're looking at a reliable source  
9 of energy that we can use in our national economy,  
10 and so, this is something that we very strongly  
11 support.

12 The Black Hills Community Economic Development,  
13 along with the Partnership to Fuel America, thinks  
14 this is a very important project for not just our  
15 local economy, but our region and our nation, and  
16 strongly urge the State Department to allow this  
17 project to go forward.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. SUNDLY: Good afternoon. My name is  
20 Tom Sundly. I am from Harris, Minnesota. I'm a  
21 member of the Local 49 Heavy Equipment Operators  
22 Union. And we are here in support of this project

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1     because of all the things you'll hear all day long.

2     But the other thing to really sit back and remember

3     is how dependent all of us are on gas and fuels and

4     oils. All of us rode in some vehicle here today.

5     All of us will be going home in some kind of vehicle

6     today. We need gas. We need the oil, and it would

7     be a lot better to get it from a country who is

8     willing to invest in our future than from countries

9     that are basically taking some of our futures away,

10    both in the military lives that they've taken away

11    from us and in the money that they are sucking away

12    from us.

13           So, I encourage you in the State Department to

14    think about and consider truly how this impact could

15    be throughout the whole United States, let alone the

16    states that are impacted directly by the pipeline

17    going through their property. Thank you.

18    (Applause.)

19           MR. LINDBLAD: Good morning, my name is

20    Gary Lindblad. I am a training director for the

21    Operating Engineers that represents Minnesota, North

22    Dakota and South Dakota. We have 13,000 members

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1     throughout these three states. We have a training  
2     facility in Hinkley, Minnesota, where we do  
3     training. We train nearly 5,000 people a year  
4     there, and we provide classes for pipeline training  
5     to do exactly this kind of work. We're very proud  
6     of the training we do. Our safety record is very  
7     high because of the training we do.

8           And I very much support this pipeline that's  
9     going through South Dakota. It will encourage more  
10    development, more refineries, hopefully, maybe in  
11    South Dakota, more jobs, and more jobs for our  
12    operating engineers. So, I encourage you to please  
13    approve this pipeline. Thank you.

14    (Applause.)

15           MR. STEELE: I'd like to call, please, Mr.  
16    Jim DoLanghe, number nine; number ten, Mr. Ryan  
17    Scott; number eleven, Paul Lundquist and number  
18    twelve, Mr. Patrick McDonnell; please.

19           MR. DOLANGHE: Hello, my name is Jim  
20    Dolanghe, and I'm an instructor with Local 49  
21    Training Center.

22           The way I view this pipeline, it's essentially

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1     infrastructure designed to carry the petroleum just  
2     like a road would be our right of way. It's also  
3     and economic stimulus package that's privately  
4     funded, not by the government. So, it's generating  
5     revenue, generating revenue for individuals and  
6     their family income that's going to be spent in  
7     local communities, which will be multiplied several  
8     times over. They are going to pay taxes. They are  
9     going to get taxes in the community from the  
10    pipeline itself, and there will be an immediate and  
11    a sustained impact on the communities for a long  
12    time.

13           It won't just affect this region, but it will  
14    affect the country as a whole. It also goes to  
15    energy stability. And everybody uses energy, and it  
16    will be a big shot in the arm for our community.

17    So, thanks.

18    (Applause.)

19           MR. SCOTT: Good afternoon, my name is  
20    Ryan Scott, and I am with the Consumer Energy  
21    Alliance, and I'm here to speak in favor of the  
22    pipeline.

23

1           At a very high level, I think this pipeline  
2           will create jobs and tax revenues. It will help to  
3           lower gas and diesel prices. It will improve our  
4           national security. And those are the high level  
5           benefits you'll hear a lot today.

6           I'd like to go a little bit into the Department  
7           of States' criteria that they specified, that you  
8           guys specified, you'll consider in the decision  
9           whether you will, in fact, permit this pipeline.

10          The first criteria is environmental impact.  
11          The Department of State has found several times that  
12          this project would have a minimal negative  
13          environmental impact.

14          Number two, impacts the proposed project on the  
15          diversity of oil supply to meet U.S. crude oil  
16          demand and energy needs. And the U.S. Department of  
17          Energy has recently concluded that building this  
18          pipeline would allow the U.S. to stop importing oil  
19          from places like Venezuela or Libya.

20          Third criteria, security of the transport  
21          pathways. I think it's widely accepted that a  
22          pipeline is the safest, if not one of the most

1     safest, ways to transport oil. You don't have to  
2     deal with hurricanes, pirates or anything of that  
3     manner.

4             Number four, the stability of the trading  
5     partner from which the United States obtains the  
6     oil. That's pretty easy; it's Canada.

7             Number five, impact across border project and  
8     relations with the country to which it connects.  
9     Again, it's a pretty easy one. The impact would be  
10    a positive impact with Canada.

11            Number six, the relationship between the United  
12    States and various suppliers of crude oil and the  
13    ability of the U.S. to work with these countries to  
14    meet overall energy security goals. And again,  
15    Secretary Chu from the Department of Energy has  
16    answered this question for us. Recently, he's  
17    already said, "Given a choice, we will choose  
18    Canadian oil." When we were talking about partners.  
19    What he didn't say is we're choosing Canada over  
20    Nigeria, over Libya, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, et  
21    cetera.

22            Number seven, the impact of the proposed  
23

1 projects on broader foreign policy objectives,  
2 including a comprehensive strategy to address  
3 climate change. In the case of oil sands, from well  
4 to wheel, we're talking about 10 percent greater  
5 emissions. If we pass on this resource, this oil is  
6 going to be shipped elsewhere, using fossil fuel to  
7 cross the ocean. We'll be forced, as the U.S., to  
8 ship in more fuel as we are currently doing, to the  
9 Gulf refineries, and all of this will emit more  
10 carbon. I would say let's go with the common sense  
11 approach. Ship it with a pipeline instead of  
12 shuffling crude back and forth across the oceans.

13 Number eight, economic benefits to the U.S.. I  
14 think it's clear. We talked about tax revenues,  
15 seven billion dollars in infrastructure, 20,000  
16 jobs.

17 Number nine, relationships between projects and  
18 goals to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to  
19 increase the use of alternative and reliable  
20 renewable energy sources. I think that not  
21 approving this pipeline would not advance  
22 alternative and renewable fuels. In fact, it would

1     choke the very economy that drives the tax base that  
2     allows this development to happen. You're talking  
3     about businesses, small and large, individuals who  
4     are choosing between food and fuel, trucking  
5     companies that get us our goods that we use. We're  
6     talking about a lot of people, and it would actually  
7     be choking out this economy.

8             The last thing the State Department issued was  
9     that this list is not exhaustive on all factors. I  
10    think it's clear. I think it's the right thing to  
11    do. It's seven million dollars in infrastructure  
12    we're not paying for. Please, build this pipeline.  
13    Please, permit this pipeline. Thank you very much.  
14    (Applause.)

15            MR. LUNDQUIST: Good morning, my name is  
16    Paul Lundquist. I'm a proud member of Local 49,  
17    Equipment Operators Union, covering North, South  
18    Dakota and Minnesota.

19            This proposed line is important to our members.  
20    It's important to our Midwest states and our  
21    country, as you will hear today. I live in Northern  
22    Minnesota where many pipelines have been put in and  
23



1     used without incident. I fish. I hunt. I enjoy  
2     the outdoors with my family throughout North  
3     America. It's a valued resource to me. I would not  
4     support anything that would endanger that.

5             Let's build this line to help the future  
6     generations. Thank you.

7     (Applause.)

8             MR. MCDONNELL: My name is Patrick  
9     McDonnell, and I represent the United Association of  
10    Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters.

11            I'm here today to stand in support of this  
12    project. I feel we all need to be grateful for the  
13    jobs that this project will bring and create for my  
14    brothers and sisters, and for the taxes that will  
15    help our schools and our communities for the years  
16    and years to come.

17            We also need to remember that this project will  
18    help the United States wean ourselves from depending  
19    upon oil which now comes mainly from the Middle  
20    East. Let's get 'er done. We need these jobs now.

21    (Applause.)

22            MR. STEELE: I'd like to call, please, Mr.

23

1 Paul Struse, Mr. Bill Lombard, Mr. Martin Skye, Mr,  
2 Larry Mann, please.

3 MR. STRUSE: State Department, brothers  
4 and sisters in construction and supporters of the  
5 pipeline, my name is Paul Struse. I'm a 10 year  
6 proud UA member, and I, along with my construction  
7 brothers, support the Keystone Project.

8 This pipeline will help fuel America's economy  
9 where jobs have been sent overseas for years.  
10 Enough is enough. It's here now. It's funded, not  
11 by tax dollars.

12 You may ask, how will this help our economy?  
13 Building this pipeline will support 20,000 jobs.  
14 Jobs that will build refineries, tax dollars for  
15 schools, education, jobs in trucking, jobs for  
16 chemists, jobs for engineers, jobs for small  
17 business, jobs for project managers, jobs for 49ers,  
18 operators, jobs for pipefitters, jobs for laborers,  
19 jobs for painters, carpenters, boilermakers,  
20 maintenance jobs. This will put food on our tables.  
21 These are jobs we need right now. Of all the wages  
22 that are made, think of the 401K, the pensions. It  
23

1 will be money invested in America. We need these  
2 jobs now. These are good paying jobs.

3 We will build it safely, environmental issues  
4 are the number one priority. We are educated. We  
5 are good at what we do. We want to build this  
6 pipeline, and we want to be proud. We help boost  
7 America's economy.

8 In closing, I want to thank the State  
9 Department. I want to thank these officers for  
10 making sure that the peace is held while we speak,  
11 as is our constitutional right as American citizens  
12 here in Pierre, South Dakota today. We are blessed  
13 to publicly speak, where a democratic process is  
14 held. I'm am Pauly the pipefitter, and I support  
15 this pipeline.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. LOMBARD: Good morning, I'm Bill  
18 Lombard. I'm the training coordinator for  
19 Pipefitters Local 455.

20 I support this Keystone XL Pipeline. I support  
21 the union brothers and sisters and families that  
22 need this pipeline built. I support the United

23

1     Association's commitment to our military, to our  
2     returning veterans from Iraq that become skilled  
3     journeymen through training under the direction of  
4     General President, Bill Hite.

5             I support the pipeline that will bring the much  
6     needed revenue to financially strapped communities  
7     along this pipeline. Earlier today, I received a  
8     phone call from a brother pipefitter asking where I  
9     was. I'm usually in the office. And I said, "I'm  
10    in South Dakota, supporting this pipeline." And he  
11    said, "That's good. That's where you should be.  
12    That's where we need you to be."

13            His brother actually worked on the Alaskan  
14    Pipeline when that was built, and we have a lot of  
15    fitters from 455 up there. And we trained the  
16    highly skilled, qualified people, craftsperson's  
17    that you need to have this pipe built.

18            I told him I'm here because it's the right  
19    thing to do. Let's get this pipeline built. Thank  
20    you.

21    (Applause.)

22            MR. MANN: I hope we're in the right order

23

1     here. My name is Larry Mann. I am President of  
2     Mann Strategies Inc. out of Rapid City. I've been  
3     involved in natural resource issues and economic  
4     development for the last 25 years. I was a member  
5     of the Black Hills Hydrology Study Steering  
6     Committee for its full 10 year process. So when it  
7     comes to reviewing environmental impact statements,  
8     I am, I guess as we say out west, this isn't my  
9     first rodeo.

10           The one constant that appeared to me as I read  
11     through the EIS is that the product, the heavy crude  
12     from the tar sands in Canada, will make it to  
13     market. It is going to be refined in some manner or  
14     form, whether it's Indonesia, Japan, China or the  
15     United States.

16           There is a demand for those products, so there  
17     is a certainty that this product will make it to  
18     market. And there are, of course, alternatives.  
19     There are tankers. There are railroad alternatives.  
20     There are trucking alternatives. But that product  
21     will make it to market.

22           And I know that most of us represented here are

1 strong proponents of alternative energy sources.  
2 And we can bemoan the fact that fossil fuels and,  
3 particularly, Canadian tar sands may not be the fuel  
4 of choice for certain special interest groups. But  
5 we can't avoid the fact that our dependence on  
6 fossil fuels is going to last for at least another  
7 generation.

8 The EIS recognizes that properly constructed  
9 and maintained pipelines like Keystone XL are the  
10 safest and most cost effective means of delivering  
11 oil supplies to refineries.

12 Risk exists for every form of activity. The  
13 EIS suggests that most of the spill scenarios can be  
14 mitigated with proper safeguards.

15 In conclusion, I hope that you'll approve and  
16 endorse the EIS and recommend approval of the  
17 presidential permit for Keystone XL. If we're not  
18 going to have a consistent energy policy in the  
19 United States that makes us truly energy  
20 independent, I would rather import heavy crude from  
21 Canada than buy one more barrel of oil from Hugo  
22 Chavez. Thank you very much.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SKYE: I want to thank you for giving  
3 me a chance to speak, honorable people that are  
4 here, State Department and ladies and gentlemen in  
5 the audience. I am Martin Skye, real development  
6 director, United Sioux Tribes Development  
7 Corporation. And I have been asked to speak here by  
8 some of the tribes and present some of their views.

9 United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota Development  
10 Corporation is a Lakota Dakota Sioux tribal  
11 organization whose Board of Directors is the elected  
12 chairman of presidents of 11 tribes in North Dakota,  
13 South Dakota and Nebraska.

14 United Sioux Tribes contacted the U.S. State  
15 Department regarding lack of support from one Sioux  
16 tribe and virtually no consultation with Indian  
17 tribal governments, as reported by the Bismarck  
18 Tribune, on Saturday, the 19th of January 2008.  
19 Some tribes are not supporting this, due to a lack  
20 of consultation. I want to point that out. In  
21 fact, the distribution list of the supplemental  
22 draft environmental impact statement of the Keystone  
23

1     XL Project fails to show any Sioux chairman or  
2     president of a tribe as being provided a copy of the  
3     draft EIS in South Dakota, as dated on April 22nd,  
4     2011.

5             Executive Order 13175 requires the U.S. State  
6     Department to establish regular and meaningful  
7     consultation and collaboration with the tribal  
8     officials in development of federal policies that  
9     have tribal implications to strengthen the United  
10    States government to government relationships with  
11    Indian tribes. To reduce the imposition of unfunded  
12    mandates upon Indian tribes, the Standing Rock Tribe  
13    of North Dakota and South Dakota opposes the  
14    Keystone XL Pipeline Project by resolution.

15    Included in this are the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of  
16    the Lake Traverse Reservation, Rosebud Sioux Tribe,  
17    Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota and the Santee  
18    Sioux Nation of Nebraska.

19             The Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska  
20    unsuccessfully filed suit against the State  
21    Department over this. How can Sioux tribal  
22    governments evaluate the merits of the Keystone XL  
23



1 Pipeline Project without being engaged in the  
2 process, prior to public scoping, as indicated in  
3 Section 5B2A of Executive Order 13175?

4 Tribal consultation is the cornerstone to  
5 Indian relations with the White House, wherein  
6 President Obama has acquired a detailed plan of  
7 actions the agency will take to implement the  
8 policies and directives of Executive Order 13175.  
9 Where is the tribal consultation policy from the  
10 U.S. State Department?

11 If by sending letters to Sioux Indian tribal  
12 governments to participate in consultation is  
13 Department of State policy, then the agency is  
14 engaged in neither regular nor meaningful  
15 consultation with Indian tribes. Again, the issue  
16 is being consultation with the tribes.

17 The progratic agreement developed by the State  
18 Department to guide consulting parties to our  
19 continued compliance was Section 106 of the National  
20 Historic Preservation Act, neither limits nor  
21 prevents any tribal governments from challenging the  
22 method or findings of the final environmental impact

23

1 statement of the Keystone XL Pipeline project.

2 If a California tribe can prevent geothermal  
3 energy development on their sacred sites and  
4 traditional cultural properties, then Sioux Indian  
5 tribal governments have a similar opportunity to  
6 stop the Keystone XL Pipeline and halt the  
7 TransCanada Corporation. Thank you for your time  
8 and consideration. Thank you again for letting me  
9 speak.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. STEELE: I'd like to call now number  
12 17, Mr. Jim Companion; Number 18, Mr. Dave Cerney;  
13 19, Mr. Brad Dykes and 20, Mr. Myron Rau.

14 MR. COMPANION: Yeah, my name is Jim  
15 Companion. I'm a member of the Operating Engineers.  
16 And with respect to the previous speaker, all the  
17 contractors are usually in compliance with the  
18 environmental rules and regulations. And I've been  
19 out of work for quite a while now, and I need a job.  
20 And like the gas tank on our car, it's essential to  
21 have a gas tank on your car. Well, jobs are  
22 essential too. Thank you.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CERNEY: Hi, I'm Dave Cerney,  
3 representing the International Brotherhood of  
4 Electrical Workers, the electricians for the job.  
5 Both local and non local workers and residents and  
6 their families can all benefit from this project.

7 Remember the days of one or two dollars for a  
8 gallon of gas? The project will both benefit Canada  
9 and the United States, while providing good paying  
10 jobs both now and in the future and help out our  
11 dependency on foreign oil. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. DYKES: My name is Brad Dykes from  
14 Yankton, South Dakota. I am recently a retired  
15 store director of a major supermarket in Yankton. I  
16 was director during the construction period time of  
17 the original Keystone Pipeline in the Yankton area  
18 in the summer of 2009.

19 I support the Keystone XL Pipeline because of  
20 the economic benefit that it will provide South  
21 Dakota. And this is based on our experience in 2009  
22 with Keystone Construction in Yankton. The skilled  
23

1 construction pipefitters and workers bring their  
2 families to town and really had an impact on our  
3 community.

4 Let's take a look at some of the figures.  
5 These are public figures. From January to May,  
6 2009, Yankton City taxable sales were trending down  
7 2.27 percent. The recession hit Yankton right away  
8 in 2008. General tax sales collected were down 1.79  
9 percent. After the construction period began in  
10 June, our general sales tax collected jumped to  
11 10.35 percent increase in June, 4 percent increase  
12 in July, 8.7 percent in August.

13 And after the construction period left, our  
14 taxable sales continued in a positive direction.  
15 The Keystone Pipeline construction was the boost  
16 that we needed in jobs and spending.

17 While specific retail sales by individual  
18 businesses are confidential, I could not find a  
19 local business that did not directly benefit. Empty  
20 homes were rented and campgrounds were filled.

21 TransCanada still employs several people in  
22 Yankton. I would expect the same type of economic

1     benefit to happen during construction of Keystone XL  
2     in South Dakota. The project is to include 10  
3     million dollars in state and local tax revenues.

4             We need jobs. The United States should support  
5     projects that boost employment and revenue, and  
6     Keystone XL will help provide a stable source of  
7     consistent energy supply over the long term, helping  
8     to support millions of American workers. With the  
9     current state of our economy, we must know that the  
10    pipeline is in the country's best interest. It's  
11    safe. I live in Yankton now, and we have a safe  
12    pipeline there.

13            I ask that the State Department and the Obama  
14    Administration to stand up for American workers, get  
15    this economy moving again and approve the Keystone  
16    XL Pipeline. Thank you

17    (Applause)

18            MR. RAU: Good afternoon, my name is Myron  
19    Rau. I'm currently employed as the president of the  
20    South Dakota Trucking Association. In my position,  
21    I serve approximately 560 companies that are  
22    involved in the transportation industry. We are a

23

1 bit unique in that we move the products that keep  
2 America moving. The trucking business involves the  
3 movement of household products, building supplies,  
4 agriculture products, food, construction materials,  
5 manufacturing supplies, along with manufactured  
6 products, motor vehicles, hazardous materials,  
7 including fuel and many, many other goods and  
8 products.

9 In South Dakota we say, "If you have it, a  
10 truck brought it." With the responsibility and  
11 necessity of the trucking industry comes a huge need  
12 of fuel. In recent years, huge strides have been  
13 made with aerodynamics and engine production to  
14 boost fuel truck mileage. However, trucks still  
15 have a great demand for the fuel it takes to pull  
16 the loads required to meet the needs of people in  
17 this country.

18 The proposed TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline  
19 provides the United States with the opportunity to  
20 access safe, reliable and affordable energy supplies  
21 from Canada. A stable long term energy supply is  
22 critical to our nation's energy security,

1     particularly when global supplies are often found in  
2     geographically unstable regions of the world.

3             Development of additional resources of North  
4     American energy will create and preserve thousands  
5     of jobs, strongly benefit our energy security and  
6     our nation's economy.

7             The question is do we say yes to oil sands, or  
8     do we continue our exposure and dependence on  
9     unstable oil markets? The more we can increase our  
10    oil supply, the better off we will be. Having  
11    Canada as a supplier for our oil is much more  
12    comforting than to have other countries supply that  
13    oil.

14            Canada has made it clear that they will proceed  
15    with oil sand development regardless of the American  
16    decision. If the United States does not want the  
17    oil, other countries certainly do. It's time the  
18    United States seized an opportunity to enhance our  
19    energy security.

20            Sure, some folks will need to give up some of  
21    their land and put up with the inconvenience of  
22    building a pipeline. That inconvenience is no

23

1     different than the inconvenience caused when  
2     interstate highways were built across this state and  
3     this country. I can only imagine where we would be  
4     if we had resisted that construction.

5             For the foreseeable future the world economy  
6     and our own will continue to run on fossil fuels.  
7     Like it or not, we can not do without oil.  
8     Increasing the supply of oil will drive down energy  
9     prices and benefit everyone, not only South  
10    Dakotans. The immediate economic benefit to South  
11    Dakota is obvious, just as the long term benefit to  
12    the nation is just as obvious.

13            When the Board of Directors of the South Dakota  
14    Trucking Association had their discussion to decide  
15    whether or not to provide supporting testimony  
16    regarding this construction, several issues were  
17    discussed. We talked about environmental safety,  
18    included that the U.S. Department of State has done  
19    it's due diligence and found it to be very safe.

20            We talked about jobs created, the creation, and  
21    concluded this project meets job creation needs for  
22    this region and for this country in a time when  
23



1 unemployment is extremely high.

2 We talked about energy needs and our dependence  
3 on unstable countries supplying those needs. We  
4 talked about the economic impact that this project  
5 will bring to the state of South Dakota, this region  
6 and the United States.

7 After that lengthy discussion, the South Dakota  
8 Trucking Association Board unanimously agreed that  
9 this is a no-brainer decision. The construction of  
10 the Keystone XL Pipeline must go forward. Thank you  
11 for your time.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. STEELE: Thank you. I'd like to call  
14 now number 21, Mr. Brian Aske; 22, Mr Scott Besler;  
15 23, I think is Mr. Olan Wagner and 24, Mr. Wayne  
16 Pederson.

17 MR. ASKE: Thank you. As stated today  
18 already, this is a huge step in getting us away from  
19 foreign oil. My name is Brian Aske. I'm the  
20 apprenticeship coordinator with the Operating  
21 Engineers, Local 49.

22 This also puts America back to work in helping  
23

1     our economy grow again. And I'll keep this short,  
2     but last, but not least, this pipeline will be built  
3     by a union workforce, with the safety, skill and  
4     experience that we believe is second to none in the  
5     world. Thank you.

6     (Applause.)

7                 MR. BESLER: Hello, I'm Scott Besler. I'm  
8     a rancher, landowner up in Harding County. Thank  
9     you for this opportunity to express my views on the  
10    proposed TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline Project.

11                First off, for better or worse, we are  
12    inexplicably linked to oil and gas in this country.  
13    Each and every day, we directly or indirectly use  
14    petroleum or a byproduct thereof. We need it in the  
15    gas or diesel to burn in our autos, the plastics we  
16    use, the clothes we wear, the food we eat, et  
17    cetera. I point this out not to push petroleum, but  
18    emphasize how it has permeated every facet of our  
19    lives and continues to do so for the foreseeable  
20    future.

21                I am a proponent of our country's continued  
22    pursuit of cleaner and more environmentally sound

23

1 sources of energy. However, that is a long term  
2 goal and one that realistically isn't going to  
3 happen or replace our dependence on fossil fuels in  
4 the near future.

5 Most Americans, myself included, would also  
6 agree we should increase our domestic production to  
7 reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This is a  
8 great idea, but there again, given our current level  
9 of usage and the projections of future use, we will  
10 likely never be completely self sufficient, as far  
11 as oil is concerned. We currently import over half  
12 of our crude oil, with a substantial proportion  
13 coming from countries that are not our closest  
14 allies, if allies at all. The only reason that some  
15 of these countries sell us oil is because we have  
16 the money and for no other reason. They would  
17 quickly shut us off if they had a better buyer.

18 Canada, on the other hand, is our single  
19 largest foreign oil supplier and arguably our  
20 closest ally in many ways. We share the longest  
21 nonmilitary guarded border in the world with them.  
22 Why wouldn't we want to enhance an already good  
23

1 relationship by agreeing to build this pipeline and  
2 bring tar sand oils to our refineries? Those oils  
3 are going to go somewhere, it only makes sense for  
4 that place to be the U.S.A., where it will provide  
5 another reliable source of crude for our refineries.

6       What other benefits would building this  
7 pipeline bring? Well, at a time when many are  
8 looking for good jobs, this project will bring  
9 numerous construction jobs as well as many permanent  
10 positions. There will also be thousands of spinoff  
11 jobs associated with oil production: service  
12 companies and refining jobs to mention a few. The  
13 direct and indirect tax revenue generated down the  
14 road by this pipeline will help to maintain our  
15 roads, schools and other infrastructures.

16       The electricity usage for the pumping stations  
17 will help our rural electrics keep their wholesale  
18 electric rates down, and that will translate to  
19 stable kilowatt rates for the average consumer.  
20 They will build large transmission lines to serve  
21 the pump stations, which will update and operate our  
22 transmission line infrastructure, reducing the

1 chance of large scale outages.

2 Are there risks to this pipeline? Of course  
3 there are. However, that can be said about every  
4 energy supply there is. I am a firm believer in  
5 making sure that every I is dotted and every T is  
6 crossed and every reasonable precaution taken to  
7 secure the safety of this pipeline and the  
8 protection of our land, if the project goes forward.

9 I would encourage landowners, local and state  
10 officials and federal officials to be diligent to  
11 ensure that proper safeguards are in place. After  
12 all, that is smart business and would be in the best  
13 interest of everyone.

14 However, with that said, I believe the  
15 pertinent question today is does the potential for  
16 gain outweigh the risk? In my opinion, what we have  
17 to gain with TransCanada Keystone Pipeline greatly  
18 outweighs the risks. Being diligent in safeguarding  
19 our land does not mean stopping this pipeline, it  
20 does mean being smart and using good, sound science  
21 and not stymying the project with unrealistic  
22 expectations and overbearing regulations.

23

1           I encourage the State Department and President  
2   Obama to give TransCanada the presidential permit it  
3   needs to proceed with the project. It would be good  
4   for Harding County, South Dakota and the country as  
5   a whole. Thank you.

6   (APPLAUSE.)

7           MR. WAGNER: My name is Dean Wagner. I'm  
8   the commissioner from Harding County. I'm speaking  
9   on behalf of the county commissioners of Harding  
10  County.

11          I was born and raised in the state of South  
12  Dakota and spent all my life there, and I ranch in  
13  Harding County. This pipeline will cross  
14  approximately 70 miles of Harding County. It will  
15  be a great benefit in the taxes for the county, as  
16  far as the school and our infrastructure. It will  
17  be of benefit for the state and the nation.

18          The jobs created will be good for our nation.  
19  Economic development will be good. It is the best  
20  and safest way to transport our oil that I know of.  
21  It not only brings tar sand oil, but it will also  
22  open development in our state's northern states,  
23

1     which is badly needed. And it also comes from a  
2     friendly country. So, we support the Keystone XL  
3     Project within the county of Harding County. Thank  
4     you, sir.

5     (Applause.)

6                 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Steele, thank you very  
7     much for providing this forum. My name is Wayne  
8     Pederson. I work for Local 49 Operating Engineers'  
9     Training Center. I am one of the people that trains  
10    the people that will do this work.

11                When I started in this business in 1968, the  
12    people that I work with told me that this business  
13    or the infrastructure was 15 years behind the times.  
14    Forty three years later, we are at least that far  
15    behind the times, if not more.

16                So, we encourage you to build this. The other  
17    thing that it will obviously do is provide more  
18    jobs, plus trickle down economics for South Dakota.  
19    So, I encourage you to build this through South  
20    Dakota.

21                One other last comment that I would like to  
22    have is that there is no better projects built than

23

1 union built projects. Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 Mr. STEELE: I'd like to call, please, Mr.  
4 Doug Zila, Mr. Gerald Jackson, Mr. Steve Shew and  
5 Mr. Jason George, please.

6 MR. ZILA: Hi, my name is Doug Zila and  
7 I'm part of four generations of operating engineers.

8 I've had the good fortune of being a part of a  
9 long line of family heavy equipment operators and  
10 heavy equipment mechanics. My two sons are  
11 professional, highly skilled, highly trained in  
12 operational land environmental protection and  
13 sensitivity of pipeline transportation right of way.

14 My boys and thousands of other highly skilled,  
15 trained craftsmen have spent countless training  
16 hours on the environmental sensitivity of  
17 professional craftwork they perform.

18 I strongly urge you to put these skilled  
19 craftsmen to work, so they are able to support their  
20 families and the communities they live in. Thank  
21 you.

22 (Applause.)

23



1                   MR. JACKSON: Hello, I'm Gerry Jackson.  
2     I'm a member of United Association of Plumbers and  
3     Steamfitters, Local 434, Central and Western  
4     Wisconsin.

5                 I speak in support of the pipeline. We need  
6     jobs. I witnessed, personally, the effects on the  
7     local businesses from the construction workforce, a  
8     pipeline that came through Wisconsin called the  
9     Guardian Pipeline. And I also seen a lot of local  
10    people get into the construction unions for that  
11    project. I saw people's home situations improve  
12    through family supporting jobs that came into the  
13    area, and I also feel we need to - - let's get our  
14    energy from our good neighbors to the north, who are  
15    very stable. I mean - - with the wars and stuff  
16    protecting our sources of oil in the Middle East,  
17    it's just killing us. We've got to get as much as  
18    we can; we need to get our energy from reliable,  
19    friendly resources. So, thank you.  
20    (Applause.)

21                MR. SHEW: My name is Steve Shew. I'm a  
22    member of UA Local 400, Plumbers and Steamfitters.  
23

1 I'm here today to speak in support of the XL  
2 Keystone Pipeline.

3 This pipeline means jobs, good paying, middle  
4 class family supporting jobs. As these workers work  
5 on these jobs, the money they earn is going to turn  
6 over in the economy many, many times. Taxes are  
7 going to be paid. Roads are going to be built.  
8 Schools are going to be built. Local and regional  
9 businesses are going to be supported. College funds  
10 for kids are going to be contributed to. Family  
11 retirement accounts are going to be contributed to.

12 This is going to allow families, middle class  
13 families, to again maybe, get to the American dream,  
14 right? That's what it's all about. This country  
15 right now needs jobs. They need these type of jobs,  
16 good paying, family supporting, jobs. That's what  
17 it's all about.

18 There's many reasons to build this pipeline,  
19 but right now, jobs is foremost in this country.  
20 And I think it's high time we get going and get this  
21 thing built. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23

1                   MR. GEORGE: Hello, thank you, my name is  
2     Jason George with the Operating Engineers, Local 49.

3                   You know, I think the economic benefits of this  
4     pipeline are undeniable. I think you've heard a lot  
5     about it. Businesses are going to benefit from  
6     this, there is no doubt. The state and local  
7     economies are going to benefit from this. There is  
8     no doubt. The tax revenues are going to increase.  
9     There is no doubt.

10                  But I want to talk to you about jobs. You're  
11     going to hear a lot about jobs in this hearing. And  
12     I think people in Washington D.C. need to hear more  
13     about jobs. There's 100 or 200 workers in this  
14     room. Every one of them has experienced chronic  
15     underemployment the last couple of years, or they  
16     know somebody who has. When we say we need those  
17     jobs, we mean it. And we hear a lot of talk out of  
18     D.C. and a lot of talk everywhere from politicians  
19     about jobs, jobs, jobs. It's time we started seeing  
20     some action. These are 20,000 good paying, family  
21     raising jobs that can happen right now. We can do  
22     this safely. It can benefit everyone. We implore  
23

1     you, the Secretary of State, President Obama, to do  
2     something and approve this project. Thank you.

3     (Applause.)

4             MR. STEELE: I'd like to call please,  
5     number 30, Mr. Dale Powalait; number 31, Mr. Jeff  
6     Gurske, number 32, Mr. Tom Gasperetti and number 33,  
7     Mr. Paul Marquardt, please.

8             MR. POWALAIT: Good afternoon, my name is  
9     Dale Powalait, and I'm employed by the Wisconsin  
10    Pipe Trade Association. I'm also president of  
11    Steamfitters UA Local 601 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

12            Local 601 has pipeline jurisdiction throughout  
13    the state of Wisconsin, and pipelines have proven to  
14    be a safe, reliable and economical way to transport  
15    oil and gas throughout North America and the state  
16    of Wisconsin.

17            This project will provide thousands of good  
18    paying jobs and give the United States a stable  
19    supply of oil and help end our dependence on middle  
20    eastern oil. These are just a few of the reasons  
21    that I strongly support the Keystone XL Project.  
22    Thank you.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. GURSKE: My name is Jeff Gurske. I'm  
3 with the United Association, Local 11, Duluth,  
4 Minnesota. I'm here to support the Keystone  
5 Project. I think we've heard several things: the  
6 benefits, the tax benefits, the jobs. Of course, we  
7 need the jobs. And one thing, we are all stewards  
8 of the land. If this project doesn't go through and  
9 it ends up getting shipped overseas and processed,  
10 they don't have the environmental laws there that we  
11 have in this country. And eventually, it's in the  
12 environment, in the air and ends up in the great  
13 lakes, or any lakes. So hopefully, you'll keep that  
14 in mind, and once again, I would just like to  
15 encourage President Obama to approve this project.  
16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. GASPERETTI: Good afternoon, my name  
19 is Tom Gasperetti. I'm an employee of the Wisconsin  
20 Pipe Trades and a member of the United Association  
21 of Local 75, out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

22 I'm here today to support the Keystone XL

23

1 Pipeline. Our nation's economy has been struggling  
2 for far too long and the construction industry has  
3 been bit particularly hard. Workers and their  
4 families are struggling, and this project will get  
5 us back on our feet and fuel this country's economy.

6 This project is ready to be built. It's  
7 funded, and it's the right thing to do. Please  
8 support this project. It's right for American  
9 business, and it's right for the American  
10 population. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. MARQUARDT: Hello, my name is Paul  
13 Marquardt. I'm with the United Association of  
14 Plumbers and Pipefitters.

15 We're the guys that weld the pipe. It's in our  
16 best interest and Keystone's best interest - - we  
17 have x-ray welds; we're using extra heavy pipe.  
18 It's in our best interest to make sure that this  
19 pipeline is safe, and it's put in right.

20 I've had two of them go by my house, gas  
21 pipelines. Of course, I only own one acre, but it  
22 was a one week deal. The land is right back to

23

1       where it was.

2               We're going to try and do it as safely as  
3       humanly possible because it's in everybody's best  
4       interest to do that.

5               National security-wise, instead of getting our  
6       oil from the Middle East, where we have to send our  
7       kids over there to get shot at. I don't think we're  
8       going to get invaded by Canada anytime soon.

9               It's all going to go to market. And the thing  
10      is we're either going to be buying it back from the  
11      Chinese, because the pipeline is either going to be  
12      coming down here or it's going out west, and then  
13      it's going to go over to China, Indonesia. It's  
14      going to get refined, and we're going to buy it back  
15      that way. So, let's create some jobs here.

16      (Applause.)

17              MR. STEELE: I'd like to call please, Mr  
18      Joe Moenck, Mr. Tom Wilson, Mr. Leon Schochenmaier  
19      and Mr. Ron Slaba, please.

20              MR. MOENCK: Thank you. My name is Joe  
21      Moenck, and I'm an employee of the Minnesota Pipe  
22      Trades Association, and also I'm member of United

23

1 Association of Local 6 in Rochester, Minnesota.

2 Over the past few years, our members have seen  
3 some tough times: high unemployment and wage and  
4 benefit cuts and quite simply, just a lack of work.  
5 But through these rough times for our members, I  
6 guarantee you they understand one thing. If they  
7 don't do their work, somebody else will do it for  
8 them.

9 The Keystone Project, it sends the same message  
10 to us. If we don't embrace this project, the  
11 Canadian oil will still get to refineries some way.  
12 Like I heard somebody say earlier, that product will  
13 still make it to the market.

14 To outsource over seven billion dollars worth  
15 of construction jobs in this country's economic  
16 times is not needed. U.S. workers are ready for  
17 this project. The Minnesota Pipe trades and UA  
18 Local 6 supports this project, and we ask that you  
19 do the same. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. WILSON: Hello, my name is Tom Wilson.  
22 I'm a landowner in Harding County, South Dakota. I

23



1     also have a proposed mancamp on my ranch.

2             In 2009, we had a government jobs stimulus  
3     package that created 1.5 million jobs. It cost  
4     575,000 dollars a job.

5             In 2011, we have another government job  
6     stimulus package. Why are we worried about  
7     government job stimulus packages, when we have a  
8     private job stimulus package that's going to cost  
9     seven billion dollars of private money? Not my  
10    money, no one in the united States will spend this  
11    money. It's private money.

12            This private jobs stimulus package will create  
13    20,000 jobs directly related to the pipeline,  
14    118,000 spinoff jobs, inject over 20 billion dollars  
15    into the U.S. economy and inject 6.5 billion dollars  
16    into personal economy. It will create 585 million  
17    dollars of money that will go into state and local  
18    tax bases.

19            It will also create an infrastructure to allow  
20    wind power to be established by the use of looping  
21    the transmission lines. The U.S. uses 50 million  
22    barrels of oil a day. We import 11 million barrels

23

1 of oil a day. Over the summer, the Department of  
2 Energy Secretary Steven Chu said, "Having Canada as  
3 a supplier of our oil is much more comforting than  
4 to have other companies supply our oil."

5 That got me to thinking. Why are we importing  
6 oil from countries that are attacking us with  
7 terrorism? When was the last time Canada attacked  
8 us with terrorism? Never, they never have. We've  
9 never had to send our boys to Canada to fight. You  
10 can look around this room, and I'll bet you everyone  
11 knows someone who has been across the water  
12 fighting. We don't want that. We want our boys  
13 here.

14 There's 65,000 barrels of Bakken oil committed  
15 to come down the TransCanada XL pipeline. That's  
16 U.S. oil with 240 drilling rigs in North Dakota  
17 right now operating. That's eight new wells a day.  
18 The Bakken Oil Field can use the pipeline. We need  
19 it. It will increase oil industry in South Dakota,  
20 North Dakota and Montana.

21 Last night on the internet, there were 3,000  
22 jobs available in North Dakota, oil jobs. If we can

1     increase that in South Dakota and Montana, look at  
2     the jobs that will be available, long term jobs.

3             I can't figure out why we are fighting this  
4     pipeline. It doesn't make any sense. Instead of  
5     fighting it, we ought to ask them, "Let's build two  
6     of them." Thank you.

7     (Applause.)

8             MR. SCHOCHENMAIER: My name is Leon  
9     Schochenmaier. I'm the city administrator for the  
10    city of Pierre, and I'm here on behalf Mayor Laurie  
11    Gill.

12            "As mayor of the city, I am concerned about our  
13    long term energy needs in our community and how the  
14    availability of reliable and affordable fuel to  
15    power our city vehicles, construction equipment and  
16    heating needs will affect our community.

17            I am also concerned that reliable and  
18    affordable fuel for our citizens and businesses is  
19    especially important to this city of Pierre, due to  
20    our location and access to business, health care and  
21    materials that are not available in Pierre.

22            Connections to larger cities that have these  
23

1 services and supplies are often more than 150 miles  
2 from Pierre. This requires a substantial investment  
3 in travel for our citizens. Consequently, we have  
4 concerns whenever energy costs escalate.

5 We believe the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline  
6 provides another source of reliable energy for our  
7 community. We therefore support the continued  
8 development of this important energy project.

9 However, we also recognize the challenges to  
10 construct and maintain this pipeline in an  
11 environmentally responsible manner. As mayor of the  
12 city of Pierre, South Dakota, I support the  
13 continued development of the Keystone XL Pipeline  
14 and urge that the owners of this pipeline take all  
15 reasonable measures to assure its long term  
16 environmental safety. Mayor Laurie Gill, mayor of  
17 Pierre."

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. SLABA: Hello, my name is Ron Slaba.  
20 I am the president of the Harding County School  
21 Board in Northwestern South Dakota.

22 We live in an area with miles of pipeline and a  
23

1 full fledged oil industry that's been in place for  
2 decades. With that, we know how to deal with  
3 pipelines. We know how to deal with oil country.

4 As a school board, we are standing here asking  
5 your approval of this pipeline. This pipeline will  
6 dramatically change the tax income we need to  
7 educate our children: our best and most valuable  
8 resource.

9 As funding dollars decline from all other money  
10 sources, we have literally had to cut our  
11 educational system below basic levels. This  
12 pipeline and the general fund taxes, the capital  
13 outlay taxes and the gross receipt taxes it will  
14 generate will allow us to educate our children to a  
15 level that they deserve. As everyone knows, the  
16 better educated our children are the more a  
17 productive part of society they will become.

18 In our opinion, the education of our children  
19 is the most important cornerstone in our national  
20 security. This pipeline will allow us to keep that  
21 cornerstone as strong as it should be. Once again,  
22 we would ask you to support and approve this

1 pipeline. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. STEELE: Next, I have, please, Mr.  
4 Richard Klein, Mr. Ray Anderson and Mr. Chuck Noble.

5 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Steele. My  
6 name is Richard Klein. I live in Woodbury,  
7 Minnesota. I am employed by the Minnesota Pipe  
8 Trades and a member of the United Association and a  
9 United States Citizen.

10 I would like to speak in favor of the Kingston  
11 (sic) XL Pipeline. I believe that our children and  
12 their children have a right to live in a world not  
13 relying on foreign oil. I also believe that this  
14 will give our country a lift in reducing  
15 unemployment and creating jobs. I know that  
16 building this with skilled men and women of the  
17 building trades and the United Association would be  
18 done professionally and safely for all interested  
19 parties with limited changes to our environment.

20 We have the training and the manpower to  
21 complete this in a timely manner with our trade  
22 people ready to go to work tomorrow for the future

23

1 of our country. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. ANDERSON: I'm Ray Anderson from  
4 Harding County. I'm involved with the pipeline in  
5 numerous ways. It will go across my land. I'm a  
6 county commissioner, Harding County Commissioner,  
7 and I've also been a director of Grant Electric for  
8 31 years as treasurer. On behalf of Grant Electric  
9 Cooperative, "I'm writing in support of the Keystone  
10 XL Pipeline, to urge you to grant the presidential  
11 permit that is required for construction of this  
12 important project. Grant Electric Cooperative  
13 Incorporation strongly believes that the Keystone XL  
14 is in our country's national interest because it  
15 will improve our national security, provide a long  
16 term stable energy supply to the United States,  
17 create jobs, and spur growth. And the pipeline will  
18 provide more than 700,000 barrels of oil each day  
19 from the Dakotas, Montana, Oklahoma and Alberta,  
20 Canada to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast  
21 reducing our dependency on oil imports from  
22 unreliable sources.

23

1           By supporting domestic production and importing  
2   oil from our ally, Canada, instead of politically  
3   unstable countries, we will strengthen both our  
4   national security and energy security.

5           The project also will drive incredible economic  
6   growth in the United States. The pipeline is  
7   expected to create nearly 20,000 manufacturing and  
8   construction jobs in the United States, as well as  
9   provide more than 5.2 billion in tax revenue to the  
10   Keystone XL corridor states.

11          Further, Grant Electric Incorporation believes  
12   that the Department of State has thoroughly analyzed  
13   the project's environmental impact and that the  
14   final EIS properly concludes that there are no  
15   substantial environmental concerns that should  
16   prohibit this project from moving forward.

17          Keystone XL will be constructed using industry  
18   best practices and will meet and exceed all existing  
19   pipeline regulatory standards. Grant Electric  
20   Cooperative believes that the construction of the  
21   Keystone XL Pipeline is in the best interest of all  
22   Americans, and we respectfully request that the  
23



1 Department of State approve the project and grant  
2 TransCanada the presidential permit necessary to  
3 begin the pipeline." Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 Mr. NOBLE: My name is Chuck Noble. I'm  
6 here as a business man and friends, like you, on  
7 this matter.

8 I am for developing oil and refineries in the  
9 northern region. I am against pumping this oil to  
10 Texas. I don't believe this project is about tar  
11 sands oil and a 36 inch pipe. I believe, in the  
12 long view, there will be multiple pipes, if this is  
13 allowed, going south with not just tar sands oil,  
14 North Dakota oil, water, electricity, not to the  
15 benefit of the northern region. We would create a  
16 lot of jobs if this oil in North Dakota and Montana,  
17 South Dakota, if that oil was refined and processed  
18 in the northern region. We would get far a bigger  
19 impact, positively, on the region with jobs and our  
20 economy than shipping this oil south.

21 It's going to cost us a lot of electricity to  
22 pump this oil south, 1,500 miles. Our utilities

23

1 will be using a lot of low cost electricity into  
2 those pumps, which will, in the end, raise our  
3 electric utility rates substantially, which is a  
4 negative impact on our economy. We will easily,  
5 probably, exceed doubling our electrical rates, just  
6 to provided electricity to pump this oil south. And  
7 it will only get worse if they put in more and more  
8 pipes sucking this resource out of our region to the  
9 south.

10 And I don't believe this tar sands oil is  
11 really going to be processed in Texas. I believe  
12 it's going on ships to China. Canada can ship this  
13 oil west to the west coast to China to export it,  
14 and that would be a good thing for the world. China  
15 needs oil too, but we don't need to trek this oil  
16 across our states using up our valuable electrical  
17 energy, pumping this oil south for what purpose?

18 We can save a lot of energy here by just moving  
19 it several hundred miles east/west instead of south,  
20 1,500 miles. Thank you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. STEELE: I'd like to call next please,

23

1 speaker number 41, Mr. Mark Johnson; 42, Mr. Robert  
2 Johnson; 43, Mr. Bernie Rossanen and number 44, Mr.  
3 Lee Weidner, please.

4 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Mark Johnson with Local  
5 49, Operator Engineer.

6 I just think we have a wonderful opportunity  
7 here to buy oil from a friend instead of enemies.  
8 Thank you very much.  
9 (Applause.)

10 MR. JOHNSON: Boy, that was quick. I'm  
11 Robert Johnson. I'm a Harding County Commissioner,  
12 and also I'm chairman of the State Association of  
13 County Commissioners. And I'm here in support of  
14 the Keystone Pipeline.

15 Some of the things that it will do for the  
16 counties is a tax base that it will create. It will  
17 help spread out our taxes for our citizens, give  
18 them more money in their pocket to spend for all the  
19 things we do and help create jobs in our own  
20 communities and stuff like that.

21 Oil is the lifeblood of America. It keeps us  
22 moving. You heard the Trucking Association guy talk  
23

1     about how it moves our products all across the  
2     country. That's one of the most important things  
3     that we can have, is to get those things moved.  
4     Along with moving of products and the taxes, it's  
5     going to make strong economies and strong state  
6     governments. And that's all in our national  
7     interest, when everything is strong.

8             You heard from our school president from  
9     Harding County, how it would help educate our kids,  
10    who, I agree with him, are one of our most important  
11    national interests.

12            This pipeline is going to be safe. I sat at  
13    the PUC hearings and heard them talk about all the  
14    safety features that are going to be on this line.  
15    I couldn't hardly believe that they could do all the  
16    things that they are going to do. That's not saying  
17    there won't be a leak. There probably could be. I  
18    don't think it will be anything that is going to be  
19    significant, if it is. But I know these guys, these  
20    unions, these pipe guys. They're not going to build  
21    a pipeline that leaks. They're going to build one  
22    that pumps oil. And I think that we need to get

1     behind this, make sure that it gets built, and that  
2     we support all the people that are here doing it.

3             There's a lot more things that I could say  
4     about this, but all the people have already said it,  
5     and I don't think we should be redundant and just  
6     keep going over it.

7             But I do have one thing that was sent to me  
8     this morning from the Fall River Commission. From  
9     Mike Horner, the chairman of the Fall River  
10    Commission, and he wanted me to read this.

11            "The five commissioners of the Fall River  
12    County South Dakota Commission unanimously wish to  
13    express their unqualified support for the proposed  
14    pipeline across South Dakota. We strongly believe  
15    that, with the existing federal and state  
16    regulations, this vital economic resource  
17    development should and must be approved.  
18    Respectfully, Chairman Mike Ortner."

19            I guess I hope that the State Department will  
20    approve this project in a timely manner, so that  
21    Keystone XL can get busy and build this pipeline,  
22    and make South Dakota stronger, our nation stronger,  
23

1     thank you.

2     (Applause.)

3                 MR. RISSANEN:  Hi, my name is Bernie  
4     Rissanen.  I'm a member of Pipefitters Local 539,  
5     Minneapolis, Minnesota.

6                 I've been a welding instructor for 14 years for  
7     our local.  We've got a brand new training center,  
8     as well as a lot of these other local unions.  We  
9     highly train our apprentices and our journeymen to  
10    this type of work.  We've done this forever.  We  
11    have new pipe, new technology, new welding  
12    equipment.  This is not nothing that has ever not  
13    been done before.

14                In 1968, where I grew up in Minnesota, they ran  
15    a pipeline through there.  Were there risks with  
16    that?  Yes, there were.  But the hundreds and  
17    hundreds of people that were employed in those small  
18    towns far outweighed those risks for the economy, to  
19    boost the economy for those people.

20                Are there risks for this pipeline?  Yes, there  
21    are.  There's risk for everything.  There's risk for  
22    everything we do all day long.  Just getting up is a

23

1 risk. The biggest risk we face here is not doing  
2 this and facing higher foreclosure rates, higher  
3 unemployment rates. We need these jobs, and we need  
4 these jobs now. If we don't do this, it would be a  
5 shame. This is something that's been done before.  
6 It will be done again, and we need to look at this.  
7 And we need to look at this hard and to say that we  
8 need these jobs for our people, and we need this  
9 because we have good Canadian neighbors and this  
10 pipe will be run somewhere. This oil will be  
11 shipped somewhere. It needs to be put in the ground  
12 in pipe and done properly. Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. WEIDNER: Hello, I'm Lee Weidner from  
15 Trip County, South Dakota. We're clear on the  
16 southern end, just before the project crosses into  
17 Nebraska. I'm a farmer, rancher, and this project  
18 does cross our real estate.

19 I rise in support of this project. We're going  
20 to need oil for many, many years. As a farmer, I  
21 was thinking on the way up here, I'll bet the  
22 average farm tractor fleet, and it's probably true

23

1 of a lot of other things too, is probably close to  
2 30 years old. The equipment we're building today is  
3 going to be in use for at least another 30 or 40  
4 years. And we need to keep building toward being  
5 self supporting.

6 Our country needs to develop oil sources that  
7 we can depend on, and Canada has been a friend that  
8 we can always depend on. And we can be sure that  
9 this product is somehow going to be moved to  
10 refineries as has been said. In my mind, a pipeline  
11 is certainly the most common sense way of moving it  
12 safely and economically and not just tearing up our  
13 roads and all the other things that are going to  
14 come with highway transportation or railroad.

15 Oil is going to continue to cost money. This  
16 project will keep more of the dollars in our  
17 economy, and I guess one of the things that I like  
18 about it is that it is privately funded and not  
19 being taken out of our paychecks, whatever they  
20 might be.

21 Tax revenue from this project will be a real  
22 help to our local governments, especially our



1 schools. As an individual farmer, it seems to me  
2 that supporting this project is the least I can do.  
3 And maybe on the other hand, it's the most I can do.  
4 Thank you.  
5 (Applause.)

6 MR. STEELE: I'd like to call please, Mr.  
7 Tim Mackey, Mr. Rodger Common, Mr. Steve Corthas and  
8 Ben Dye.

9 MR. MACKEY: My name is Tim Mackey. I'm  
10 from Woodbury, Minnesota. I'm a proud member of  
11 Laborers' International Union of North America and  
12 privileged to be the business manager of Local 563  
13 in Minneapolis. It covers parts of Minnesota and  
14 the state of North Dakota.

15 The Keystone XL Project will create 20,000 jobs  
16 in construction and manufacturing at a time when the  
17 industry really needs the boost. The current  
18 unemployment rate in construction is almost 14  
19 percent. For much of the last two years, the  
20 industry has had unemployment levels over 20  
21 percent. The unemployment rate in construction  
22 reached over 27 percent in February of 2010,

23

1 depression era levels.

2 This project is really essential for jobs.

3 This project will go a long way in putting equipment  
4 operators, pipefitters, laborers and truck drivers  
5 on the job.

6 After three years in the permitting process,  
7 it's time to approve the project and allow  
8 construction contractors to hire thousands of our  
9 friends and neighbors to work on it. The jobs  
10 created will be good jobs, with good benefits not  
11 low wage jobs. These are exactly the kind of  
12 private investments that we need to get the economy  
13 moving again.

14 Please find the Keystone XL Project in the  
15 national interest and approve the presidential  
16 permit right away. I appreciate the State  
17 Department holding this meeting today. Thank you  
18 very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. COMMON: I'm Rodger Common. I'm with  
21 Local 49, and I support this project to go on. We  
22 need the jobs. Thank you.

23

1       (Applause.)

2                   MR. DYE: My name is Ben Dye. I'm an  
3 officer with Pipefitters Local 539. I'm here today  
4 to join the school officials, the merchants, the  
5 labor leaders, the ranchers, the county officials,  
6 the state officials that have all spoke before me  
7 and spoke in favor of this. This is the right thing  
8 to do. We need the jobs. We need the oil. We need  
9 the independence. We need to move forward. Thank  
10 you for your time.

11       (Applause.)

12                   MR. STEELE: Is Mr. Steve Corthas here?  
13 Okay, then we'll move along. I'd like to call Mr.  
14 Jim Berger, Mr. Dennis O'Connor, I believe, Mr. Jeff  
15 Manson, and Mr. Cary Bryson, please.

16                   MR. O'Connor. My name is Dennis O'Connor.  
17 I'm an American, a veteran, and I support this  
18 project.

19       (Applause.)

20                   MR. STEELE: Is Jim Berger here please?  
21 How about Jeff Manson? Cary Bryson? Okay, we'll  
22 move along. Mr. Loren, I believe, Prange? Mr.

23

1 George Frederikson, Mr. Mike Bubalo, and Mr. Mike  
2 Connelly.

3 MR. PRANGE: Hi, good afternoon, Loren  
4 Prange. As a former resident born and raised in  
5 South Dakota, I support the Keystone XL Pipeline  
6 because of the economic benefit it will bring to the  
7 state of South Dakota. We are here today to speak  
8 in favor of the Keystone XL Pipeline. The State  
9 Department should approve this project because it  
10 will strengthen our national economic security.  
11 Thank you.  
12 (Applause.)

13 MR. STEELE: Do we have George  
14 Frederikson? Mike Bubalo? Mike Connelly, please?  
15 Then I have number 57, Mark Borowicz; 58, Mr. Logan  
16 Dockter; 59, Mr. Doug Jarek and 60, I think Ms.  
17 Armida Alexander.

18 MR. BOROWICZ: My name is Mark Borowicz.  
19 I'm a member of Laborers Local 563, Minnesota/North  
20 Dakota, and I'm here today to support the Keystone  
21 XL Pipeline. It will create thousands of jobs.  
22 Jobs with good pay and good benefits, and at this  
23

1     time, I believe the economy and the industry could  
2     use them.

3     So, I ask the State Department to approve the  
4     Keystone XL Pipeline. Thank you.

5     (Applause.)

6                 MR. DOCKTER: Thank you for allowing me to  
7     speak. My name is Logan Dockter. I am the business  
8     manager for the Plumbers and Pipefitters UA Local  
9     300 for the states of North Dakota and South Dakota.

10                Both my members and myself want to go on record  
11     as supporting this very important project. To my  
12     members, it means badly needed jobs. To the United  
13     States, it means helping shore up our weak economy  
14     for an untold number of years and for securing a  
15     reliable source of energy from a stable country,  
16     which our country desperately needs.

17                We so need this project built. We need it  
18     built and designed environmentally sound, utilizing  
19     the newest and safest engineering that's available.  
20     Thank you.

21     (Applause.)

22                MR. JAREK: My name is Doug Jarek. I'm a  
23

1 member of the Local 563, 35 year member. And I'm  
2 here to support the project to get young men and  
3 women, skilled men and women, to work. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. ALEXANDER: My name is Armida  
6 Alexander. I serve the members of the Unitarian  
7 Universalist Church, All Souls, in Sioux Falls,  
8 South Dakota. I am their minister. I was ordained  
9 30 years ago.

10 I am here with the encouragement and blessing  
11 of my congregation and their denomination. I come  
12 to speak to the dilemma of the tar sands pipeline.  
13 We have deliberated and are ready to reveal our  
14 hearts to you.

15 We know that there are many opinions about the  
16 wisdom of allowing the pipeline to run through  
17 Dakota territory and the wisdom of building it at  
18 all. As Edwin Newman famously remarked, "When two  
19 people think exactly alike, one is not thinking very  
20 much."

21 We are aware that those who stand to gain money  
22 or prestige from the business of transporting toxic  
23

1 material will use very fancy rhetoric to describe  
2 its advantages. They will use sublime language  
3 aimed precisely at what many people need and want:  
4 Progress, energy, jobs and independence from foreign  
5 entanglements. Others will say progress has its  
6 hidden costs. Businesses always try to externalize  
7 these costs, but someone will pay, usually those  
8 least able to afford it. These costs will not be  
9 privately endowed.

10 An energy is a form of spirit and as such it is  
11 dangerous to handle, to extract and to transport.  
12 The ancient storytellers told us this. Prometheus  
13 was chained to a rock and his liver was extracted  
14 daily.

15 Jobs, work is very important and everyone is in  
16 favor of jobs. Foreign oil had entangled us in  
17 international intrigues and wars and they are  
18 lamentable.

19 Well, we are those others, saying these things.  
20 We oppose the pipeline. It is the duty of religion  
21 to judge from the highest possible ethical  
22 standpoint, from the standpoint of what we hold

1       sacred, what is Wakon. (phonetic)

2               In these crucially important decisions, the  
3       State Department will be called upon to raise your  
4       eyes to the horizon, to be in traditional new  
5       testament language, "Wise as serpents and gentle as  
6       doves." That is like a serpent, close to the earth;  
7       and like a dove, soaring above. The integrity of  
8       the earth and the health of its people and animals  
9       is in your hands.

10              Francis David once said, "We need not think  
11       alike to love alike." Our love runs deep for this  
12       land, these people and the spirit that troubled the  
13       waters to bring them forth. This love we leave with  
14       you in your decision making, to counsel you in  
15       wisdom. May it be so.

16       (Applause.)

17              MR. STEELE: Next, I have please, Mr.  
18       James Wheelock, Mr. Lee Hiller, Mr. John Logelin and  
19       Mr. Jason Edelman, please.

20              MR. WHEELLOCK: I'm Jim Wheelock, with  
21       Local 563. And I support the Keystone Project.  
22       Our middle class in America is all but disappearing,  
23



1       and we need these jobs. Thank you.

2       (Applause.)

3                   MR. HILLER: Good afternoon, my name is  
4       Lee Hiller. I'm from Good Thunder, Minnesota. I'm  
5       the president of the International Union of Operator  
6       Engineers, Local Number 49. I help represent over  
7       13,000 highly trained and skilled heavy equipment  
8       operators and public sector employees from South  
9       Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota.

10           Our members and their families have proudly  
11       served and are currently serving in our military  
12       today, putting their lives on the line to keep our  
13       country free. Face it, these wars and conflicts  
14       where our brothers and sisters are proudly serving  
15       have mostly started over the need and control of  
16       oil.

17           Canadian and American oil drilled and shipped  
18       to our American pipelines could possibly help end  
19       the need to deploy our troops in hostile areas of  
20       the world and bring our troops home.

21           The operating engineers stand ready to  
22       construct this line today, and I ask the State

23

1 Department to approve this project. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. EDELMAN: My name is Jason Edelman,  
4 I'm a member of the 139 Operator Engineers out of  
5 Wisconsin. I am a resident of the state of South  
6 Dakota. I support the pipeline.

7 I support it for jobs. As a personal pipeline  
8 worker, about 25 percent of my income went back into  
9 the local community while I was over the road.

10 I support it because of all the stuff that you  
11 go to buy in the store, a lot of it is made out of  
12 plastic, not just fuel. And I support it, based on  
13 the Constitution, that the first sentence of the  
14 Constitution is, "We the people for the United  
15 States, of the people of the United States." This  
16 pipeline is good for the whole United States, the  
17 people as a whole. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. STEELE: Is John Logelin here please?  
20 Okay, I have Ms. Karen Logan, Mr. Oliver Atkinson,  
21 Mr. Brian Brunette, and Mr. David Owen, please.

22 MR. BRUNETTE: Good afternoon. I would

23

1 first like to say thank you for giving me the  
2 opportunity to speak here today. My name is Brian  
3 Brunette. I'm from Mendota Heights, Minnesota. I'm  
4 a proud member of the Laborers' Union of North  
5 America, and I would just like to say that there's  
6 not a whole lot of things that I can say that  
7 haven't been said already.

8 But this is an opportunity. This is an  
9 opportunity for our country that our forefathers and  
10 mothers, they fought for this. This is our  
11 opportunity to better our country and our society.  
12 So I ask for this to be approved, the Keystone  
13 Project. Thank you.  
14 (Applause.)

15 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you for this  
16 opportunity. My name is Oliver Atkinson, Local 563,  
17 33 year member.

18 I just want to say I'd like to see this project  
19 go and go fast. I will have been a member for 33  
20 years. Unfortunately, the economic times caught up  
21 to me a year or two ago, and I had some financial  
22 decisions to make. Fortunately, I had an  
23

1 opportunity I did not want to take, but I took; I  
2 retired. I would have liked to have worked a few  
3 more years, but the work wasn't there. So I hope  
4 this passes fast, so the people in my situation can  
5 make the right decision. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. OWEN: Thank you, hearing officer.  
8 David Owen, South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and  
9 Industry.

10 It seems like the main question before you is  
11 whether this pipeline should cross that border. We  
12 would enthusiastically say yes.

13 There are several other questions. Should we  
14 buy oil from our best friends from the north? We  
15 think we should. I suppose one could look at the  
16 question about whether they should be developing  
17 this oil, but that seems to me to be beyond the  
18 stretch of this hearing and beyond a question that  
19 we can answer. That is for Canada to decide. I  
20 suspect they will do that, regardless of whether  
21 they put it in this pipeline or put it in another  
22 one.

23

1           Should we transport this oil in pipelines? I  
2       would say yes, and suggest that the fact that there  
3       are hundreds of pipelines crossing virtually every  
4       part of this country, and that the issues that they  
5       have are few and far between would give testament to  
6       the fact that, that can be a very sound decision.

7           We support this for the construction jobs, and  
8       for South Dakota, probably most importantly, for the  
9       fact that this adds to a tax base for schools in  
10      very rural areas that need it desperately.

11          My final observation is this. When you can see  
12      labor and government groups and business and ag  
13      groups, rural, all banding together, you're not just  
14      looking at a good economic proposal, you're looking  
15      at a near miracle. Thank you.

16      (Applause.)

17                 MR. STEELE: Is Karen Logan here? Okay,  
18      then I will call please Mr. Dan McGawen, Mr. Kenneth  
19      Bartz, Stacey Karels and Josh Bussan please.

20                 MR. BARTZ Well, I guess I'm going first.  
21      I thank you for letting me talk to you. I'm a  
22      retired 132 Local member, Saint Paul. I support  
23

1     this pipeline because of we need the jobs here in  
2     the United States. We need the oil. The pipeline  
3     runs 24/7. It brings in a lot of oil at one time  
4     for a long period of time. It would take a lot of  
5     ships to bring that much oil in. It would take a  
6     lot of trains to cross this country to bring that  
7     oil in.

8             And some more economical threat with the trains  
9     bringing oil across, because of construction, road  
10    hazards, whatever. And we need the oil, so why not  
11    just let us build a pipeline and take and use the  
12    oil here in the United States, instead of imported  
13    oil, and take and have our refineries refine it.

14            Bring down taxes that comes out of it,  
15    throughout all the United States, and everybody in  
16    the United States will benefit from it.

17            We are already using electricity and stuff from  
18    Canada, which is going good. We are getting oil  
19    from Canada right now, natural gas. You don't hear  
20    that stuff going bad across the nation. Why not  
21    with this here pipeline? Because it brings just  
22    that much more opportunity to bring the economy up,

23

1     and the taxes that it will bring in will be good. I  
2     appreciate the capability of talking to you, and I  
3     hope you approve this pipeline. Thank you.

4     (Applause.)

5                 MR. STEELE: Excuse me, you are Stacey  
6     Karels, is that correct?

7                 MR. KARELS: That's Ken.

8                 MR. STEELE: That just finished speaking?

9                 MR. KARELS: That's Ken Bartz.

10                MR. STEELE: Ken Bartz, okay, I'm sorry.

11                MR. KARELS: I'm Stacey Karels.

12                MR. STEELE: You're Stacey Karels.

13                MR. KARELS: Yeah, I'm a member of  
14     Laborers International Union, North America. I am  
15     also a business representative to the Local 132,  
16     Saint Paul, Minnesota in Southwestern Minnesota.

17                I live in Good Thunder, Minnesota, and I  
18     support this pipeline for the opportunity, for the  
19     jobs for today and for tomorrow. Because there's  
20     always going to be maintenance on this project, it's  
21     going to keep our members busy for a long time.

22                And I am also an avid hunter and an

23

1 outdoorsman. And for me to enjoy that type of  
2 stuff, we need the jobs for the money to go enjoy  
3 that type of stuff. Nothing is free now-a-days.  
4 So, I thank you for your time.  
5 (Applause.)

6 MR. STEELE: Is Dan McGowen here? Josh  
7 Bussey? Then I'll go on please with Ken Lovitz,  
8 with Mike Warner, with Todd Pufahl and with James  
9 Ungerman.

10 MR. LOVITZ: Seventy three, Ken Lovitz. I  
11 am a member of Laborers' International, North  
12 America. I'm glad to be here today, just to support  
13 this pipeline. I've worked on pipelines before.  
14 I've also got pipelines in my backyard in Minnesota  
15 where I live.

16 The point at hand is I want to be a steady  
17 middle class American, to live this dream in  
18 America. And if I don't see these middle class jobs  
19 proceed, we're going to be welfare people that have  
20 nothing anymore.

21 I'm glad to be a person that I can support my  
22 children in college today. If I didn't have this  
23



1 money to support my children, where would more  
2 people with more knowledge be in America any more?

3 So, I want to support this pipeline and have  
4 more jobs, a better economy and a little bit of  
5 money, so I can enjoy life just a little more.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 Mr. WARNER: My name is Mike Warner. I'm  
9 a proud member of Laborers' International Union of  
10 North America. And simply put, I support this  
11 pipeline for two reasons: the thousands of good  
12 paying jobs that it's going to create and to reduce  
13 the dependency on oil from the Middle East. Thank  
14 you for your time.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. PUFAHL: Good afternoon. My name is  
17 Todd Pufahl, and I'm a proud 32 year member of the  
18 Laborers' International Union of North America. I'm  
19 also privileged to serve as the legislative director  
20 for the Laborers' District Council of Minnesota in  
21 North Dakota, where over 23,000 people depend on the  
22 wages and benefits afforded them and their families

23

1 as they work as skilled construction craft laborers.

2 As you have heard many times without dispute,  
3 the Keystone XL Pipeline will create over 20,000  
4 jobs in construction and manufacturing, at a time  
5 when industry and the economy really needs a boost.  
6 The current unemployment rate, in the last two years  
7 in our industry, has had unemployment levels over 20  
8 percent. This project is clearly essential for jobs  
9 for our industry. This project will go a long way  
10 towards putting members back on the job.

11 For that reason, we would urge Secretary of  
12 State Clinton and President Obama to please find the  
13 Keystone XL Project in the national interest and  
14 approve the presidential permit right away. Thank  
15 you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. STEELE: Is James Ungerman here,  
18 please?

19 MR. UNGERMAN: Yeah, my name is James  
20 Ungerman. Thank you for having this. I'm in favor  
21 of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

22 We need the work. We need it bad. There are a

23

1 lot of people with no work. We need to decrease our  
2 dependence from OPEC and South America. We've got  
3 to get our country back. We need the jobs. Thank  
4 you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. STEELE: I'd like to call please  
7 number 77, Mr. Steve Trepanier; 78, Mr. Tom Pender;  
8 79, Mr. Steve Buck and 80, is it Brice Bowlos,  
9 please?

10 MR. TREPANIER: My name is Steve  
11 Trepanier. I'm a member of the Laborers' Union of  
12 Minnesota/North Dakota. I stand here in favor of  
13 this pipeline.

14 We have hundreds of skilled construction  
15 laborers that are ready to go to work on this  
16 pipeline. We need the jobs. Let's build it.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. PENDER: Good afternoon, Mr. Steele.  
19 Thank you for bringing your committee meeting out  
20 from under the shadows of the Washington Monument.  
21 It's kind of nice to see the rest of the country  
22 once in a while, isn't it?

23

1           My name is Tom Pender. I'm a 41 year member of  
2           the Laborers' International Union, and a retired  
3           member of Local 563. I reside in Mission, Texas for  
4           the winter, and I am a native and summer resident of  
5           Minnesota.

6           I'm about to make my annual migration south,  
7           and I'm going to be burning about 300 gallons of gas  
8           to get there, pulling my house. And I've got a  
9           little different spin on this. It would be real  
10          different to like buying the gas from North America,  
11          rather than buying 300 gallons of OPEC oil. I know  
12          it's more barrels for them to import. But it would  
13          be just a real, feel good thing to buy domestically  
14          produced gas from our own continent.

15          There is a group of people that are protesting  
16          everything. They protest fishing, don't know why.  
17          They protest logging, well, I don't know what they  
18          build their house with or wipe their hiney with when  
19          they get done doing their business. But there's a  
20          lot of people that are just against everything, and  
21          I'm not understanding why.

22          We'd like to reduce our dependence on OPEC oil,

23

1     and this is one good way to do it without costing  
2     the taxpayers a nickel. Thank you very much. I  
3     appreciate you're bringing your hearing here. Thank  
4     you.

5     (Applause.)

6                 MR. BUCK: Good afternoon, my name is  
7     Steve Buck. I am a business agent for the Laborers'  
8     Local 563 in Minnesota. And you've heard many  
9     people talk about jobs, jobs, jobs.

10                Well, I look at it as a little more than a job.  
11     The men and women in the construction trades and the  
12     people that will be building this pipeline have  
13     careers. Those careers provide those people with a  
14     fair wage and with benefits; health insurance,  
15     pension, that will take care of them into their  
16     retirement. These people will not be a burden on  
17     society. They will live a very comfortable  
18     retirement on their union pensions.

19                This oil exists. It's not a matter of if  
20     Canada is going to develop this resource. They are  
21     developing this resource. It can either flow to the  
22     United States, where it can create many good paying

23

1 jobs and lessen our dependence on foreign oil, or it  
2 can go straight west across Canada to China. The  
3 choice is yours. I hope you'll do the right thing.  
4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BOWLES: Hello, my name is Brice  
7 Bowles, is how you pronounce it.

8 MR. STEELE: Brice.

9 MR. BOWLES: Thank you. I'm just proud to  
10 be here as a member of North American Laborers'  
11 Local, and say I am in support of this XL Pipeline.  
12 I think it's going to do good for this country, and  
13 for the people that need the jobs. Thank you.  
14 (Applause.)

15 MR. STEELE: Okay, next I have number 81,  
16 Mr. Oscar Sletten; number 82, Mr. Mitchel  
17 Nehrenberg; number 83, Jackie Sletten and 84, Ryan  
18 Field, please.

19 MR. SLETTEN: Hi, my name is Oscar  
20 Sletten. I'm a member of Operating Engineers Local  
21 49. I want to thank you for having this meeting  
22 today. Everybody so far has spoke on everything I

23

1     wanted to, and I just want to say I support the  
2     pipeline.  Thanks.

3     (Applause.)

4                 MR. NEHRENBURG:  Hi, my name is Mitchell  
5     Nehrenberg.  I'm with the Laborers' Local 563,  
6     Minneapolis, Minnesota.

7                 I want to say I support this pipeline.  It's  
8     not always about construction.  It's about our  
9     future, our young kids.  I have two young kids that  
10    will benefit from this project also.  So everybody,  
11    look around.  I guess Tom had mentioned about the  
12    toilet paper and the 2 by 4s, but take a look how  
13    you got here.  How did you drive here?  Just  
14    remember that, think about your future.  Thank you.  
15    (Applause.)

16                MS. SLETTEN:  My name is Jackie Sletten.  
17    I'm from Owatonna, Minnesota, and I support the  
18    pipeline for our economy and our nation's security.  
19    Thank you.  
20    (Applause.)

21                MR. FIELD:  Hi, my name is Ryan Field.  I  
22    am a member of Local 455, and I'm here to support  
23

1     the pipeline. Over the last few years with the high  
2     unemployment rate, I'd hate to see an opportunity  
3     pass by that could create 20,000 plus jobs.

4             In addition, the more oil we buy from the  
5     Middle East, the more we're strengthening their  
6     economies and their infrastructure, and they don't  
7     even like us. We can bring that money in dollars  
8     here, and do it ourselves. Plus all the extra money  
9     that's generated from the tax revenue, helps lessen  
10    the burden on the people of the areas that it's  
11    built.

12            On top of that, even the people who are opposed  
13    to it chartered a bus that came here. That runs on  
14    fossil fuels; they'll even benefit from it.

15    (Applause.)

16            MR. STEELE: Next, I have Mr. Walter  
17    Wicks, Mr. John Harter, Mr. John Kerstiens and Ms.  
18    Trista Olsen, please.

19            MR. WICKS: I'm Walter Wicks. I'm from  
20    Albert Lee, Minnesota. And I've been with the  
21    Laborers' Union since 1990. I'm a Vietnam veteran,  
22    and as you all know, the country never supported the

23



1 Vietnam vets. As they are, our soldiers today are  
2 lucky that they are being supported.

3 Now, this is something that people need to  
4 think about. When our soldiers come home, they need  
5 jobs. And this is going to create many jobs  
6 throughout, from the northern United States down to  
7 the southern United States. This is throughout the  
8 country where jobs are needed very badly.

9 And I was going to retire this year, but as the  
10 last two years I have had very little work and am  
11 unable to retire at this time, and I'm 65. So, that  
12 means I've got to work at least two more years  
13 before I'm able to retire, if the jobs are there.

14 Now, I worked on the pipeline in the Northwest  
15 Minnesota, and as we went through the reservations,  
16 we had not only the environmental representatives,  
17 we also had representatives of the reservations  
18 there, watching us foot by foot. They were there,  
19 and everything had to be above board.

20 Now, when we went through the country, many of  
21 the sites were in poor conditions and when the  
22 pipeline left there, often times they were in much

23

1 better perspective than what they were. So, we  
2 improved the environment that way, not only with the  
3 jobs that we are providing for many people in a bad  
4 situation in the United States today. We need this  
5 pipeline to go through, and I highly recommend  
6 everybody support this and think about it. This is  
7 something that needs to be done. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. HARTER: Thank you for having us. I'm  
10 John Harter. I represent family farms and ranches,  
11 and I paid my own way here. I ranch in Tripp  
12 County, South Dakota. The proposed Keystone XL  
13 Pipeline crosses me four miles west of Colome, South  
14 Dakota.

15 TransCanada, a foreign for profit company, has  
16 filed eminent domain on my family to steal our  
17 property and our property rights from us. The  
18 property owners of South Dakota have had no fair and  
19 good faith negotiations, with fair being the key  
20 word on Keystone 1 and Keystone XL. This was done  
21 by TransCanada being allowed the threat of eminent  
22 domain as a leverage tool to intimidate property

23

1 owners into signing easements. Using coercion to  
2 get someone to sign an easement is against the law.

3 But when we asked our state and federal  
4 government leadership to stop this process, we were  
5 ignored. As far as I'm concerned, there are a lot  
6 of people that should resign their position for  
7 dereliction of duty.

8 Because of TransCanada's ability to use eminent  
9 domain, property owners had no right to say no  
10 during negotiations. This alone has taken millions  
11 of dollars from our local communities and has a  
12 negative effect on our economy. When a project that  
13 is so large and high risk starts off with a negative  
14 effect on our local economies, it is not in the  
15 public interest, and a poor economy is not in our  
16 national interest.

17 My property, four miles west of Colome, South  
18 Dakota, sits on the northern end of the Ogallala  
19 Aquifer. The city of Colome's water wells are on  
20 the southwest end of the corridor land being  
21 crossed, Section 19776 in Tripp County, with my  
22 property being sub-irrigated and having erodable and

1 permeable sandy soil, and being within contamination  
2 distance of the city of Colome's water wells, I  
3 asked that my property be treated as high  
4 consequence area. TransCanada's response was no,  
5 this area was not determined to be high consequence  
6 area.

7 Let's see, sub-irrigated by part of the largest  
8 aquifer in the United States, within contamination  
9 distance of a public water resource, I think this is  
10 a high risk area and needed to be treated as such.

11 TransCanada likes to brag that they have safe  
12 pipelines, that they build the safest pipelines  
13 available. Well, they have yet to prove it.

14 I have also contacted PHMSA with my concerns of  
15 my property. My contact at PHMSA will not answer my  
16 e-mails now. How responsible is this? I also asked  
17 PHMSA for a copy of the report on Keystone 1  
18 Pipeline for when it was checked for expanding over  
19 maximum diameter. I'm still waiting. What are they  
20 hiding?

21 Fourteen leaks on Keystone 1 in just over a  
22 year, a new gas pipeline in Wyoming explodes and you

1 ask, trust me? I think not.

2 The endangerment of our water is not in our  
3 public interest nor our national interest, and is  
4 not and should not be for sale at any price.

5 So many communities are already recycling sewer  
6 water to drink or have to filter their water for  
7 contaminants. We have some of the purest water in  
8 the nation and want to keep it that way.

9 When I was told no to having my land treated as  
10 a high consequence area, this should have surprised  
11 me, but it did not, coming from a company,  
12 TransCanada, in a nation, Canada, that does not even  
13 respect its own fresh water resources.

14 The steam injection process is using four to  
15 five barrels of water for one barrel of oil. The  
16 wastewater from this process is pumped into holding  
17 ponds. The water from these ponds is leaking out  
18 and flowing into waterways that flow north and dump  
19 into the Arctic Ocean. This water is full of highly  
20 toxic chemicals.

21 If they are willing to do this to their own  
22 country, what makes you think they care what happens

23

1     to ours? If you are so concerned about national  
2     security, you better remember that food and water  
3     come first to maintain life, not oil. This is a  
4     common sense issue. I hope our leaders will find  
5     some and use it.

6           Next, you need to look at clean up of a spill  
7     into the Ogallala Aquifer. The answer is  
8     TransCanada nor anyone will ever be able to clean up  
9     a spill into an aquifer. This alone is enough to  
10    deny this project. This water resource is so  
11    valuable you can not risk it to the greedy oil  
12    investors to make a cheap buck.

13           Next, the SEIS and the FEIS, these two  
14    documents are so full of errors you would think a  
15    two year old prepared them. It is worse that  
16    TransCanada had an aid in this process. How much  
17    more corrupt can this get? The corruption involved  
18    in this Keystone Oil Project makes Bernie Madoff  
19    look like a saint and is an embarrassment to our  
20    state and federal government.

21           Within the SEIS 3-127, TransCanada expects  
22    property owners to be its early detection system.

1 This is because the one they are installing will not  
2 detect pinhole leaks, which could leak as much as  
3 five percent of it's capacity a day, or 1.7 million  
4 gallons a day, without being detected. Not only are  
5 they admitting that their safety system is not  
6 effective, TransCanada wants property owners to work  
7 for them for nothing for the next 30 to 50 years.  
8 This is after underpaying most, if not all, for the  
9 extreme risk to their property.

10 MR. STEELE: Mr. Harter, we appreciate  
11 your comments, but can you bring them to a close,  
12 sir?

13 MR. HARTER: I am not in support of this  
14 project, and you guys need to think that our water  
15 quality is more important than this oil. Thank you.

16 MR. STEELE: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. KERSTIENS: I'm John Kerstiens of the  
19 South Dakota Farmers' Union. Our main concern with  
20 this pipeline is for landowners that are affected by  
21 the route of the pipeline. We must assure that each  
22 one has the opportunity to have their concerns aired

23

1 and legitimately alleviated. The landowners must be  
2 able to have any legal contract reviewed by their  
3 own attorney to assure full knowledge of what is  
4 asked for by landowners.

5 Compensation of land should be just and  
6 negotiated in the best interest of the landowner.  
7 TransCanada should work with the landowners to  
8 assure the best route of the pipeline through the  
9 land. They need to take into account the waterways,  
10 the stock dams, the ponds and the wildlife habitat  
11 and water for human use before construction.

12 Our understanding is in the beginning the  
13 company did not want to work or negotiate with the  
14 landowners. After millions of dollars spent and a  
15 couple of years deliberating, TransCanada finally  
16 agreed to work with most of the landowners, and we  
17 suggest they remember doing that and moving forward.

18 In addition, any spill cleanup is the  
19 responsibility of TransCanada. And production  
20 losses, as a result of the spill, must be  
21 compensated fairly by TransCanada. All affected  
22 lands of the pipeline should be reclaimed to native  
23



1 grass species or that of the landowners' wishes.

2 We believe a cleanup fund is a much needed  
3 assurance for our state and for our landowners. And  
4 finally, we reiterate our support for the  
5 landowners' rights and livelihoods and will continue  
6 to work for them. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. OLSEN: High, my name is Trista Olsen,  
9 and I'm here today not only as a Mellette County  
10 Rancher, but as a business owner and a mother of  
11 three.

12 I hear a lot of assumptions being made today,  
13 but I'm not hearing very many facts being presented.  
14 Gas prices, Keystone XL will increase gas prices for  
15 Americans, especially family farms like mine.

16 By draining Midwestern refineries of cheap  
17 Canadian crude into export oriented refineries in  
18 the Gulf Coast, Keystone XL will increase the cost  
19 of gas for Americans. The TransCanada 2008 permit  
20 application states, and I quote, "Existing markets  
21 for Canadian heavy crude, principally PADD2, U.S.  
22 Midwest, are currently oversupplied resulting in  
23

1 price discounts for Canadian heavy crude oil.  
2 Accessing the U.S. GC U.S. Gulf Coast via the  
3 Keystone XL Pipeline is expected to strengthen  
4 Canadian crude oil pricing in the Midwest by  
5 removing the over supply. This is especially to  
6 increase the price of heavy crude to the equivalent  
7 cost of imported crude. This resulting increase in  
8 the price of heavy crude is estimated to provide an  
9 increase in annual revenue to the Canadian producing  
10 industry in 2013 of U.S. 2 billion to U.S. 3.9  
11 billion."

12 Independent analysts of these figures found  
13 this would increase per gallon prices by 20 cents  
14 per gallon in the Midwest. According to an  
15 independent analyst, U.S. farmers, who spent 12.4  
16 billion on fuel in 2009, could see expenses rise to  
17 15 billion or higher in 2013 if the pipeline goes  
18 through. At least 500 million of that added  
19 expenses would come direct from the Canadian market  
20 manipulation.

21 Jobs. In 2008, TransCanada presidential permit  
22 application for Keystone XL to the State Department  
23

1 indicated a peak work force of approximately 3,500  
2 to 4,000 construction personnel. Jobs estimated  
3 above those listed on the application draw from a  
4 2011 report commissioned by TransCanada that  
5 estimates a 20,000 person years of employments,  
6 based on a non public forecast model, using  
7 undisclosed inputs provided by TransCanada.

8 According to TransCanada's own data, only 11  
9 percent of the construction jobs on the Keystone 1  
10 pipeline in South Dakota were filled by South  
11 Dakotans. Most of them for temporary, low pay,  
12 manual labor.

13 TransUnion ATU and the Transport Workers' Union  
14 both oppose the pipeline. Their August 2011  
15 statement, "We need jobs, but not ones based on  
16 increasing our reliance on tar sands oil." There is  
17 no shortage of water and sewage pipelines that need  
18 to be fixed or replaced, bridges or tunnels that are  
19 in need of emergency repair, transportation  
20 infrastructure that needs to be renewed and  
21 developed. Many jobs could also be created in  
22 energy conservation and upgrading the grid and

1 maintaining and expanding public transportation.

2 A rupture in the Keystone XL Pipeline could  
3 cause a BP oil spill in America's heartland over the  
4 source of fresh drinking water for 2 million people.  
5 The U.S. Pipeline Safety Administration has not yet  
6 conducted an in depth analyst of the safety of the  
7 diluted bitumen, raw tar sands pipeline, despite  
8 unique safety concerns posed by the more corrosive  
9 properties of this pipeline.

10 TransCanada predicted that the Keystone 1  
11 Pipeline would see one spill in seven years. But in  
12 fact, there has been 12 spills in 1 year. The  
13 company was ordered to dig up 10 sections of pipe  
14 after government ordered tests indicated that  
15 defective steel had been used. And the Keystone XL  
16 will be using that same steel from an Indian  
17 manufacturer, not from America.

18 Keystone XL will cross through America's  
19 agricultural land, the Missouri and Ivora (sic)  
20 River, the Ogallala Aquifer, sage grass habitat,  
21 wildlife fisheries and many more.

22 The tar sands oil will not reduce dependency on  
23

1 foreign oil. Keystone XL will not lessen U.S.  
2 dependency. The Keystone XL is an export pipeline.  
3 According to their own presentation to investors,  
4 Gulf Coast refiners plan to refine the cheap  
5 Canadian crude supplied by the pipeline into diesel  
6 and other products for export to Europe and Latin  
7 America. Proceeds from the exports are earned tax  
8 free. Much of the fuel refined from the pipeline's  
9 heavy crude oil will never reach U.S. driver's  
10 tanks.

11 Think about it. Why can't you guys build your  
12 own refinery in Canada, instead of taking it across  
13 ours.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. STEELE: Could I have please, Mr. Paul  
16 Seamans, Pat Spears, Matt McGovern and Troy Becker,  
17 please.

18 MR. SEAMANS: My name is Paul Seamans,  
19 from Draper, South Dakota, and Keystone will cross 1  
20 1/2 miles of my land, south of Interstate 90. And I  
21 would like to welcome all of our out of state  
22 friends to South Dakota.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 There are many issue that the FEIS does not  
3 adequately address and that need further study. One  
4 issue is the area of pipeline safety.

5 TransCanada had previously predicted that the  
6 Keystone 1 Pipeline, Keystone XL's much shorter  
7 sister line, would see only one spill in seven years  
8 for the entire line. In fact, there have been 14  
9 spills in just the U.S. alone since becoming  
10 operational in June of 2010.

11 Diluted bitumen is considered much more  
12 corrosive than conventional crude, and the effects  
13 of the corrosive crude on the pipeline's interior  
14 needs more study. These potentially unsafe  
15 pipelines could pose a major threat to our drinking  
16 water. A spill where the XL the Cheyenne River in  
17 South Dakota or the Yellowstone River in Montana  
18 could make its way into the Missouri River. A  
19 majority of South Dakotans obtain their drinking  
20 water through rural water systems that in turn get  
21 their water directly from the Missouri River. An  
22 even more troubling scenario would be a leak into

23

1     the Ogallala Aquifer in Nebraska. A leak in the  
2     Ogallala would affect drinking water in Nebraska and  
3     all states south through Texas.

4           TransCanada considers an alternate route to the  
5     east of the Ogallala as being unneeded and too  
6     expensive. This refusal to reroute shows a  
7     shortsightedness and the arrogance of TransCanada.

8           TransCanada has tried to sell the Keystone XL  
9     as being important to the national security of the  
10    U.S.. TransCanada tries to convince us that the XL  
11    will decrease our dependence on oil nations  
12    unfriendly to the U.S.. Nowhere have I seen any  
13    promises that the tar sands oil will remain in the  
14    United States.

15           The XL will be built to the Gulf Coast, where  
16    the crude could be easily exported overseas. The  
17    oil fields themselves in Alberta have many foreign  
18    countries with an ownership stake in them,  
19    TransCanada being one of the principles.

20           TransCanada touts the urgent need for the XL.  
21    In fact, oil industry officials have estimated that  
22    the present tar sands pipelines can handle a volume  
23

1 of crude to be produced in the tar sands oil fields  
2 until the year 2020. Further more, this pipeline  
3 will only tend to hasten the destruction of the  
4 Boreal Forest in Alberta due to strip mining being  
5 used to recover the bitumen.

6 There appears to be no pressing need to build  
7 Keystone XL. I would urge the State Department to  
8 take their time in considering this presidential  
9 permit and to determine, in fact, if this pipeline  
10 is needed and in the best interest of the United  
11 States. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SPEARS: Hi, my name is Pat Spears. I  
14 serve as the president of Intertribal Coup of the  
15 Council on Utility Policy, and I represent 15 tribes  
16 throughout the Dakotas, Nebraska and Wyoming.

17 The mining of tar sands oil from Northern  
18 Alberta has a devastating impact on the lands,  
19 water, forests and the ecosystems, wildlife and  
20 health of the Cree and the Dene Nations in Canada.

21 You don't hear any talk about that and what  
22 it's doing to the land and water and the health of

23



1 the people up there, and the huge amount of water it  
2 takes to mix that with the toxic chemicals and such.  
3 Those spills up there are so toxic that people can  
4 only go in there with safety equipment on for an  
5 hour. And the skin on the exposed parts of your  
6 body, on the wrists and neck, burns. So, they can  
7 only stand it for an hour. That's how bad that  
8 stuff is.

9 Now, this energy intensive high carbon  
10 extraction process combined with the future burning  
11 of fuels compounds the impact on global warming. If  
12 tar sands mining is fully expanded, the impacts in  
13 climate change will be irreversible. The proposed  
14 Keystone XL Pipeline is a 1,700 mile long fuse to  
15 the largest carbon bomb in North America.

16 The transportation of the tar sands oil to the  
17 United States refineries via Keystone XL and other  
18 planned pipelines extends these environmental risks  
19 to the indigenous and all people along the pipelines  
20 in Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma  
21 and Texas. This includes damages to cultural  
22 resources, water, land and the ecosystems of the

1     treated lands being crossed for pipeline  
2     construction. Many leaks and oil spills have  
3     already occurred, due to corrosion in the pipelines,  
4     without adequate protection and remediation.

5             The Intertribal Council on Utility Policy  
6     opposes the extraction of tar sands oil and pipeline  
7     construction that's weaving its way through the  
8     Indian reservations in the Missouri Basin and across  
9     the treaty lands occupied by all peoples in Canada  
10    and the United States. It's our position that the  
11    environmental risk and damages to the earth, water,  
12    wildlife, cultural resources and human health are  
13    not worth the limited benefits of a few more years  
14    of oil consumption at a higher cost.

15            Tar sands oil is not needed to ensure oil  
16    supply in the United States. The Keystone XL  
17    Pipeline will likely increase the price of crude oil  
18    and refined oil and provide access for export to  
19    other countries. So, this higher cost of oil would  
20    increase the price of all products, especially  
21    agriculture and food, and will mean loss of even  
22    more jobs in a depressed economy, as related in a

1 recent study by Cornell University.

2       There are alternatives to continued fossil fuel  
3 burning for energy. There are biofuels and electric  
4 vehicles that could be powered by plants, the wind  
5 and the sun. We think these sources of renewable  
6 energy should be the first priority for investment  
7 by the investment community and support by the  
8 United States Government. I think these jobs will  
9 have a longer term and sustained economic benefit to  
10 the people here in the United States, rather than a  
11 few dollars that are earned by a transnational  
12 company that isn't even going to benefit the people  
13 here the way that you hear the rhetoric expounded.

14       So for these reasons, we strongly urge that the  
15 State Department and the President review these  
16 future and current impacts of a tar sands pipeline.  
17 And to meet with the indigenous nations leadership  
18 in both the U.S. and Canada. The Great Plains  
19 Tribal Chairman's association took action yesterday,  
20 opposing these pipeline constructions for the  
21 reasons that are stated, and they've asked for  
22 consultation directly in a meeting with the State

23

1 Department and the administration as soon as  
2 possible, so that there can be direct and meaningful  
3 consultation of dealings with the tribes as  
4 government to government.

5 So, we're very concerned about our water for  
6 the future of our children and our agriculture and  
7 all life that it sustains here throughout the Great  
8 Plains. Thank you for this time.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. MCGOVERN: Hi, I'm Matt McGovern, from  
11 Sioux Falls, and I work for the National Wildlife  
12 Federation in South Dakota. And I worked for the  
13 National Wildlife Federation because of the values  
14 that I learned growing up in my family. My  
15 grandmother grew up on a family farm in Woonsocket  
16 and spent every day outside, out with animals and  
17 wildlife. And she taught us, from a very early age,  
18 that taking care of the land, taking care of the air  
19 we breathe, taking care of the water is just part of  
20 having good values and part of common sense.

21 We are called to determine here whether this  
22 project is in the national interest. And I think

23

1     that protecting a livable climate is in the national  
2     interest and that the Keystone XL Pipeline is a  
3     threat to that. Protecting wildlife is in the  
4     national interest. Focusing on a transition to a  
5     clean energy economy that will create jobs and  
6     enhance our security is also in the national  
7     interest.

8             South Dakota is a leader in clean energy, and  
9     we should not sacrifice for a project that benefits  
10    China and Canada the way Keystone XL does. And the  
11    way Keystone XL is in Canada's interest and not in  
12    our interest is by raising gas prices, especially in  
13    the Midwest. And I just want to read what  
14    TransCanada said in their own application to the  
15    Canadian government for the permits that they needed  
16    to build the pipeline in Canada. It's Section 3,  
17    Supplying Markets, 3-43 Crude Pricing Impact.

18            TransCanada claimed that, "Existing markets for  
19    Canadian crude, principally Pad 2, that's the  
20    Midwestern oil market, are currently oversupplied,  
21    resulting in price discounting for Canadian heavy  
22    crude. Access to the U.S. Gulf Coast via the

1     Keystone XL Pipeline is expected to strengthen  
2     Canadian crude oil pricing by removing this  
3     oversupply. This is expected to increase the price  
4     of heavy crude to the equivalent cost of imported  
5     crude. The result in increase in the price of heavy  
6     crude is estimated to provide an increase in annual  
7     revenue to the Canadian producing industry in 2013  
8     of two to four billion dollars, American dollars."

9             So, we really should consider just building a  
10    second pipeline to send money north, which would be  
11    taking that money out of consumer's pockets. That  
12    would mean less money for us to spend here in the  
13    Midwest. That's going to cost jobs. That's going  
14    to harm our economy and is not in the American  
15    national interest.

16            At a hearing, kind of similar to this one in  
17    September 17th, 2009, consultants for TransCanada  
18    testified to the Canadian National Energy Board  
19    about what they called their strategy to increase  
20    gas prices in the Midwest. And I'm just going to  
21    read some quotes from a Mr. Davies. He is asking,  
22    "So first of all, this strategy as you call it,

23

1 would be intended to raise the crude price not only  
2 in Pad 2, but also in Ontario, right?"

3 Mr. Wise, "Yes, it would raise it in Ontario  
4 and in Western Canada. And to be clear, the  
5 strategy is their producer, who supplies the  
6 committed volume on XL, would be prepared to take a  
7 financial hit in order to raise crude prices in Pad  
8 2, in Ontario, right?" Mr. Wise, "Yes."

9 And I'm just reading this so that it's in the  
10 record and that we can have our government consider  
11 whether raising our own gas prices is in the  
12 national interest.

13 So, this is going to result in higher gas  
14 prices for us. And what about jobs? That's a real  
15 important issue. We're in a jobs crisis right now.  
16 And when our own South Dakota Public Utilities  
17 Commission looked at this and filed their own report  
18 on the assessment of associated economic impacts,  
19 they said it would create six permanent jobs in  
20 South Dakota, and that the temporary construction  
21 jobs would be mostly going to people out of state.

22 So, I think we need to focus on a transition to  
23

1 clean energy, which will create up to 2 million jobs  
2 here in America. Clean, renewable energy. Many of  
3 these policies were supported by the unions that are  
4 represented here today. And I think that's one of  
5 the best things that's happened in politics in  
6 recent years is labor unions and conservationists  
7 working together to support policies to help  
8 transition to clean energy, which creates jobs. And  
9 I think that's where we should focus our energy, and  
10 not on approving this Keystone XL Pipeline, which is  
11 not a national interest.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. BECKER: Good afternoon. My name is  
14 Troy Becker. I'm a member of Pipefitters Local 208  
15 and also the Rocky Mountain District Council Number  
16 5. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

17 Everybody has heard all the benefits of this  
18 Keystone XL Pipeline. I'd like to urge President  
19 Obama to give the presidential permit for this.  
20 It's going to create 20,000 jobs right off the bat,  
21 and put seven billion dollars in our economy. It's  
22 going to increase our national security, and it's a

23



1 good start to get off Mideast oil and South American  
2 oil.

3 Also, we have the environmental protections  
4 here in the United States that other countries don't  
5 have, and we already know that China is in line to  
6 take this oil if we don't take it. Thank you for  
7 your time, and again I rise in support of this.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. STEELE: Can I have please Mr. Joseph  
10 Santarella, Mr. or Ms. I can't tell, Lynn Taylor,  
11 Mr. Rick Allen, Mr. Paul Lepisto, please.

12 And you are?

13 MR. TAYLOR: I am Lynn Taylor. I am a  
14 member of Local 49, the Operating Engineers. I am  
15 an expert, professional equipment operator, and all  
16 of our operators here are expert professionals as  
17 well as the other tradesman here. And we support  
18 this pipeline project. And I would like all the  
19 people in support of this, tradesman and  
20 professionals, to stand with me now and show your  
21 support of this project.

22 (Applause.)

23

1           We would ask that the State Department-

2           MR. STEELE: Excuse me, please. I would  
3 ask that we give these folks the courtesy to have  
4 their views heard, and you will, in turn, receive  
5 the exact same courtesy. Continue, please.

6           MR. TAYLOR: And we would ask that the  
7 State Department approve this project. Thank you  
8 very much.

9           (Applause.)

10           MR. STEELE: Is Mr. Santarella here,  
11 please?

12           MR. SANTARELLA: Good afternoon. My name  
13 is Joseph Santarella, and I proudly serve as counsel  
14 for the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Trade Council, as  
15 well as many of the unions in this room today.

16           Today, I present these comments on behalf of  
17 the Rocky Mountain Pipe Trades Council, which  
18 strongly supports the proposed Keystone XL Project  
19 for many of the reasons that we've already heard  
20 this afternoon.

21           The Rocky Mountain Pipe Trades District  
22 Council, however, would like to reinforce that the

23

1 proposed project is in the United States national  
2 interest for the following reasons:

3 First of all, the United States can reduce its  
4 dependence on oil from the Middle East and the flow  
5 of our nation's assets to countries whose political  
6 and social values are inconsistent with our own. In  
7 many instances, support those that seek to harm this  
8 great nation.

9 Second, thanks to the negotiation of a project  
10 labor agreement, the Keystone XL Project will be  
11 built with American union labor. That means good  
12 paying jobs with benefits for American workers in a  
13 time when our economy is struggling and our politics  
14 have stymied efforts to jumpstart our economy.

15 Moreover, the Keystone XL project will be  
16 constructed by experienced, well trained, American  
17 workers. Your neighbors, who care about this  
18 country's environment because it's their home. Even  
19 more significantly, these union workers have  
20 undergone extensive training under apprenticeship  
21 programs that will result in high quality  
22 construction to build the safest pipeline possible.

23

1           For example, the United Association Pipefitters  
2   are trained under a five year apprenticeship  
3   program, with more than 40 different welding  
4   certifications.

5           I'd also like to address a couple of comments  
6   that I've heard this afternoon. First of all, with  
7   regard to the pipeline spills in the original  
8   Keystone Project, we note that those were all at the  
9   pumping stations. Pumping stations that were built  
10   by non union labor, that were not benefitting from  
11   the apprenticeship program that has been trained,  
12   and these members, make them valued journeymen.

13           Second of all, with regard to the steel.  
14   Indeed, the original pipeline was built with Chinese  
15   steel. But thanks to an agreement with the United  
16   Steelworkers, this pipeline will be built with  
17   American steel, high quality American steel.  
18   (Applause.)

19           Reality is that the United States remains  
20   reliant on petroleum. I didn't notice many bicycles  
21   parked in the parking lot outside. And indeed, even  
22   the buses that arrived were driven by petroleum. We  
23

1     agree that we need to transition to a cleaner  
2     economy. But that clean economy is going to take  
3     time, and at this point, our politics are not  
4     allowing it to go forward. In the meantime, we need  
5     jobs, good jobs, high paying jobs that provide  
6     benefits. And this pipeline will be built by  
7     Americans, Americans that care about this community  
8     and Americans that are dedicated to making sure that  
9     this pipeline does not foul our air, does not foul  
10    our water or does not foul our land.

11         We have to recognize that every step we take,  
12    every morning we wake up, we take risks. This is  
13    indeed a risk, but it is a risk that is worthwhile  
14    and necessary under the circumstances, particularly,  
15    in light of the fact that we have been unable to  
16    wean ourselves from petroleum. And I, myself,  
17    personally prefer that we get our petroleum from  
18    Canada, not from Saudi Arabia and other nations that  
19    trample on human rights.

20         Finally, I want to reinforce that the Rocky  
21    Mountain Pipe Trade District Council urges the  
22    Department of State to grant the presidential permit

1     for the Keystone Project. We believe it is firmly  
2     in the national interest. Thank you for your time  
3     and your attention.

4     (Applause.)

5             MR. ALLEN: Rick Allen.

6             MR. STEELE: Rick Allen, right, right.

7             MR. ALLEN: My name is Rick Allen. I'm  
8     the business manager of the Rocky Mountain Pipe  
9     Trades District Council Number 5. Covers Colorado,  
10    Wyoming, western South Dakota and the panhandle in  
11    Nebraska.

12            In the United States, we have a pretty big  
13    unemployment issue, as a lot of people in here have  
14    testified to today. In construction, it's about two  
15    to three times what the national average is. And in  
16    some areas, much worse than that. I know several  
17    members that have been out of work for two to three  
18    years, with no opportunities coming in the near  
19    future.

20            This pipeline, if it's built in the United  
21    States, will create thousands of jobs and put many  
22    union members and other people who would like to

23

1     have the opportunity to be a union member, to work.

2             What happens here when people go to work, they  
3     spend their money on goods and services in the  
4     communities along the route of this pipeline. Those  
5     goods and services will have to hire people to cover  
6     the demand. This is how the economy is turned  
7     around. Things like this is what fixes economies,  
8     and our economy seems to be on a holding pattern  
9     right at disaster levels right now. So, this  
10    pipeline is a good start to help turn this thing  
11    around.

12            As for the environment, it's very important  
13    that we protect our environment. It's the only one  
14    we have. I believe that if we oppose this pipeline  
15    for environmental reasons, then we allow the oil  
16    sands in Canada to be shipped to the Pacific Coast  
17    or wherever, and shipped to a country that may have  
18    no environmental protections in place while they  
19    refine this oil, causing greater damage. It's one  
20    world, whether we damage it here or damage it in  
21    China. If we damage the environment, the  
22    environment is damaged.

23

1           With the Pipeline Hazardous Material and Safety  
2   Administration will oversee this pipeline, and make  
3   sure that we adhere to the environmental standards  
4   that are required in the United States of America.

5           That's environmental justice. That's making  
6   sure this pipeline is done properly. I know for a  
7   fact, coming through the trades myself as a plumber,  
8   I'm a plumber, but I know many pipefitters. The  
9   five year training program we have is among the best  
10   in the world, I guarantee you. The welders that we  
11   have are certified to do this work. They do it all  
12   the time, and they do an excellent job.

13          The welds are actually stronger than the pipe  
14   when they are done making them. And I feel that if  
15   the State Department will approve the presidential  
16   permit for this thing, we can put people to work in  
17   this country. And that's the most important thing  
18   we can do. Thank you for your time.

19   (Applause.)

20                 MR. LEPISTO: Good afternoon. My name is  
21   Paul Lepisto. I'm an original conservation  
22   coordinator for the Isaac Walton League of America.

23



1 The Isaac Walton League of America appreciates this  
2 opportunity to provide comment on this proposed  
3 Keystone XL Pipeline Project. The league is one of  
4 America's oldest conservation organizations.

5 Currently, we have over 38,000 members in 260  
6 chapters across the country. At our national  
7 convention that was held in July in Des Moines, the  
8 league adopted this following resolution, which  
9 states that, "The league opposes the construction of  
10 the Keystone XL Pipeline and any other tar sands  
11 pipelines until the following conditions are met:

12       Number one, any proposed pipeline shall undergo  
13 a thorough review by all relevant local, state and  
14 federal regulatory bodies with authority over the  
15 pipeline and its design and operation, to ensure  
16 that public and environmental health is protected.

17       Number two, governmental permitting and  
18 regulatory agencies shall require the incorporation  
19 of failsafe provisions, such as double wall pipe and  
20 leak detection monitors in new pipeline construction  
21 and operation and in repairs of existing pipelines,  
22 in order to protect surface water, ground water,

23

1 human health, soils and wildlife.

2 And number three, penalties, financial  
3 assurance and or reparations should be established  
4 as part of the construction and operation permitting  
5 process, in the event of any noncompliance and to  
6 mitigate any damages to the public and environmental  
7 health.

8 Again, the Isaac Walton League appreciates the  
9 chance to provide comment on this important issue,  
10 and we thank you for your time and your  
11 consideration.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. STEELE: Next please, number 97, Mr.  
14 Steve Callahan; 98, Ms. Rebecca Leas; 99, Mr. Gill  
15 Koetzle and number 100 please, Ms. Hazel Bonder.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Hello, my name is Steve  
17 Callahan. I am a member of the United Association  
18 of Plumbers and Pipefitters.

19 One of the biggest challenges that we face  
20 today is high unemployment. Unemployment in the  
21 construction industry is at nearly 40 percent,  
22 compared to the 9.1 overall unemployment rate. It

23

1 is estimated that the Keystone Project will put  
2 roughly 20,000 Americans to work. From construction  
3 workers to the workers who make the pipe, which I  
4 believe is in Pennsylvania, and the pumps that will  
5 be made, which are going to be manufactured in Ohio,  
6 and to those that transport the materials to the job  
7 site.

8 Personal income could see a boost of 6.5  
9 billion dollars, and this pipeline will not cost the  
10 American taxpayer a penny.

11 In total, the Keystone Project is expected to  
12 create 20 billion dollars of economic stimulus to  
13 the U.S. during construction. It will also create  
14 hundreds of permanent jobs along the multi-state  
15 route. These are long term, good paying jobs.

16 In addition, the United Association has  
17 partnered with the U.S. Military to create the  
18 Veterans in Piping Program. This provides returning  
19 veterans with 16 weeks of accelerated welding  
20 training. This training is free to veterans who are  
21 placed in construction careers nationwide.

22 The VIP Program kicked off at Camp Pendleton,  
23

1     turning out combat Marines with several welding  
2     certificates and the weapons to be employed, not an  
3     unemployed statistic upon release from the Marine  
4     Corps. This program continues at Camp Pendleton.  
5     It is also in use in Lacey, Washington with the  
6     Washington National Guard and Washington State  
7     Veteran's Affairs. The most recent class to  
8     graduate was a class at the Army National Guard's  
9     Camp William in Wisconsin.

10           The Keystone XL Pipeline is an ideal worksite  
11     for our warriors who have given so much to their  
12     country. Nearly 300 veterans are currently employed  
13     with a career through the VIP Program.

14           There has been all kinds of, three different  
15     environmental impact statements conducted on this  
16     project. The final EIS reaffirms the findings of  
17     the two previous statements, that this pipeline will  
18     have a minimal impact on the environment.

19           This pipeline will have a degree of safety  
20     greater than any typically constructed domestic oil  
21     pipeline under current regulation. This pipeline  
22     will be tested at a higher level of pressure than is

1     called for in the code. It will have more mainline  
2     valves, will be buried deeper than required, and  
3     will be inspected and cleaned more often than the  
4     code calls for.

5             In addition, TransCanada plans to build  
6     additional protective sealed concrete conduit around  
7     the pipe in areas where the water table is at or  
8     near the surface.

9             The Keystone Pipeline will help to reduce our  
10    dependency on foreign oil from the unstable Middle  
11    East and other hostile countries. We do not need to  
12    do business with countries who utilize child labor  
13    and slave labor. Watch the nightly news and see how  
14    these countries treat its citizens. Canada is one  
15    of our strongest and closest allies. This project  
16    will only strengthen our countries' relationship and  
17    allow both countries to prosper.

18            If we do not buy this oil from Canada, some  
19    other country will. They will refine that oil and  
20    sell it back to us at a much higher rate. This oil  
21    will likely be transported twice on the oceans in  
22    barges and ships, which pose a much greater risk for  
23

1 a catastrophic accident.

2 The oil in Canada is coming out of the ground  
3 no matter what we as Americans choose to do. Canada  
4 already exports 99 percent of its oil to the U.S..  
5 Stopping the Keystone XL Pipeline will not stop the  
6 oil sands operations.

7 We need to create jobs, both short term and  
8 long term, by supporting this project. We need to  
9 transport this oil in the safest, most economical  
10 way. The Keystone XL Pipeline will allow us to do  
11 that. Please support this pipeline. Thank you.  
12 (Applause.)

13 DR. LEAS: Doctor Rebecca Leas, 40 year  
14 health professional, Rapid City, South Dakota.

15 Quality of life isn't measured only by what we  
16 gain but also by what we trade for it. I understand  
17 the cry for jobs. All of us care about jobs.  
18 Interestingly, as I've studied these documents on  
19 this issue over the last two years, what I was  
20 reading originally suggested 5,000 to 6,000 jobs.  
21 And it seems in recent weeks, this is now been  
22 inflated to 20,000 jobs. I'm just not sure about

23

1 all that number.

2 All of us do care about jobs, and it's also a  
3 shame that those of us that care about land rights,  
4 health and environment seem to be portrayed as  
5 anti-job and now even anti-veteran.

6 I am surprised and quite frankly offended at  
7 the number of out of state people who have talked  
8 today, that are wanting to come here and not care  
9 about the loss of land to South Dakotans, the loss  
10 of our water and the resultant higher gas prices and  
11 electric prices and many other prices that we will  
12 suffer as a result of this project.

13 These folks, many of them, while I understand  
14 their need for jobs, these types of jobs are very  
15 temporary, and we will be left with permanent  
16 results that will be to our disadvantage.

17 You heard first off today how safe this project  
18 will be. A META analysis of pipelines nationally  
19 shows a preponderance of leaks and toxic problems.  
20 So, I believe this safe claim is simply not true.

21 The current XL Pipeline promised one leak in  
22 seven years, and it has had twelve spills in one

23

1     year. All the claims made today about roads,  
2     schools, taxes, are not born out by the data. This  
3     is akin to the Holy Grail.

4             In North Dakota, where the oil fever is  
5     currently raging, roads have been destroyed and  
6     quality of life has been severely affected. They  
7     are seeing rampant alcohol, drugs, rape, whorehouses  
8     and a generally dangerous environment. Be careful  
9     what you wish for.

10            Water is our most valueable mineral, and if it  
11     is spoiled, sickness and mortality will follow. XL  
12     itself admits in their documents that crude prices  
13     will go up. The long terms impact is a big negative  
14     for South Dakota.

15            And lastly, I find the arrogant Canadians and  
16     some arrogant Americans unconscionable in their lack  
17     or mention and care for the Native Americans and the  
18     native peoples that are dealing with the toxic  
19     situations up in Alberta. This is just simply  
20     unacceptable. Thank you.

21     (Applause.)

22            MR. KOETZLE: Thank you. My name is Gill

23



1 Koetzle, and I'm here today representing the  
2 Operating Engineers, Local 49.

3 Brother and sister Americans, we gather here  
4 today to address a serious issue, that being the  
5 future of our country. How we can safely reduce our  
6 dependence on Mid East Oil and instead deal with a  
7 friendly neighbor that supports us and supports our  
8 future.

9 This is about jobs. This is about security.  
10 This is about the future, and this is about  
11 independence from our oppressors. It's time that we  
12 all join together, get this project completed and  
13 guarantee life as we know it, while our country  
14 segues to more alternative energy sources. The time  
15 is right. The time is now to approve this project.  
16 I ask your support.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. BONNER: My name is Hazel Bonner, and  
19 I come as an individual resident of Rapid City,  
20 South Dakota. I also am a member of the Prairie  
21 Hills Audubon Society and the National Audubon  
22 Society.

23

1           I am very concerned about this pipeline and the  
2   potential danger that it will bring to our area.  
3   There will be few jobs, and these jobs will be  
4   temporary. Once the pipeline is built, it will  
5   primarily be automated. It will actually raise the  
6   fuels costs. We discussed that several times. I  
7   will not go over those facts.

8           Unprecedented eminent domain has been used  
9   against the landowners. We've heard some of that  
10   information, but not very much of it.

11          The devastation in Canada, itself, and  
12   especially the massive misuse of the Boreal Forest  
13   in Canada and the horrible protest that's going on  
14   there have been outrageous. The Boreal Forest is a  
15   major nesting ground for millions of birds and the  
16   habitat for many other kinds of wildlife.

17          Most of all, however, and I bring with me a  
18   message from an 82 year old elder resident of Rapid  
19   City, Mary Far Thunderbright. She could not be here  
20   because of health concerns. "We are most concerned  
21   about the danger to the Ogallala Aquifer. It  
22   provides clean water to the entire center of our  
23

1 nation. The risk of leaks on this pipeline are - -  
2 we've already heard about the ones that have already  
3 occurred. But the high temperature in the pipes of  
4 about 3,000 degrees create problem with leaks. We  
5 must protect the aquifer because of the danger to  
6 our water supply. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 Mr. STEELE: Next, I have Mr. Mark Rogers,  
9 Ms. Sandra Little, Mr., I presume, Sid St. Pierre  
10 and Mr. Peter Bardeson.

11 MR. ROGERS: Hi, my name is Mark Rogers.  
12 I'm the business agent for Sheetmetal Workers Local  
13 10, president of the Eastern South Dakota Building  
14 Trades and executive Board member of the AFL CIO.

15 South Dakota Building Trades and the South  
16 Dakota AFL rise in support of this project. I was  
17 born here, raised here, more than likely die here.  
18 I love this state. We still have the family farm in  
19 north of Forestburg on the James River. I raise my  
20 family here, hunt, fish, camp and thoroughly enjoy  
21 this state.

22 Even though we need these jobs and the economic  
23

1     boost, I would not support this project if it were  
2     harmful to South Dakota's people. It is not. It is  
3     beneficial to us and our country. What better than  
4     North American Oil?

5             Though South Dakota has weathered the economic  
6     hit better than a lot of areas, we are feeling it.  
7     And all that personally too. My wife owns a bar and  
8     grill, and like most small businesses, it's  
9     experienced two years of downturn.

10            We need to start growing our economy again.  
11     This is a shovel ready job that's privately funded.  
12     Let's build it and get the ball rolling back to the  
13     economic recovery. Put Americans back to work and  
14     support our great neighbors to the north, and help  
15     our local governments with the needed boost in  
16     revenues.

17            I too support alternative energy. Whether we  
18     want to believe it or not, we are many, many years  
19     from weaning ourselves from fossil fuels. But we  
20     can do something now to start weaning ourselves from  
21     OPEC. Thank you.

22     (Applause.)

23

1                   MS. LITTLE: My name is Sandra Little, and  
2 I come here as a enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux  
3 Tribe. And I want everybody to take a look at this  
4 T-shirt. You are treading on indigenous land. You  
5 made this into law, and you need uphold the law. It  
6 affects a lot of indigenous people, and I have to  
7 cry every time you guys rape Mother Earth. You  
8 don't even consider her. Our lives depend on her.  
9 She provides everything for us, and you want to take  
10 it away again.

11                  It hurts. We don't have jobs, but we don't  
12 okay the pipeline. You need to think about what you  
13 are doing. You speak of green, everything green,  
14 but it sure isn't the environment. It's money that  
15 you think of. We don't have money, but we don't go  
16 around digging up the earth that provides everything  
17 for us.

18                  Mother Earth is crying too. You don't hear her  
19 because you people don't connect with her. The  
20 Lakota People are given the power to take care of  
21 Mother Earth. You people are given the power of  
22 fire. You look around you, and you must use it.

23

1     You have to think about what you're doing.

2             And I have a message for you to take back to  
3     Mr. Obama. Mr. Obama, please don't okay this  
4     pipeline. As an indigenous person who can vote, I  
5     helped put you in office Mr. Obama, you okay this  
6     pipeline, you're not going to have my vote the next  
7     time around. And I know that there's a lot of  
8     people who feel that way, indigenous peoples. You  
9     have to say no. Thank you for listening to me.

10    (Applause.)

11             MR. ST. PIERRE: That is why I'm here.  
12    Good afternoon, pleasurable afternoon. I am Mr. Syd  
13    Ear St. Pierre, I have been on my country, our  
14    country, for 62 years. And for 62 years, I have  
15    experienced the violation of the treaties. I  
16    wondered if it would ever stop? That became the  
17    reason for my formal education. I had traveled the  
18    United States, visited with all the normal people.  
19    I have been to Europe and visited the good people  
20    over there.

21             I pray that Mr. Obama would make a good, honest  
22    decision for the future of our nations. And I am

23

1 here today just to give some insights. I will  
2 abbreviate, but I hope you get my point.

3 These insights for the predictions of the  
4 aboriginal populations of the world are coming about  
5 in these very short, few, months, maybe weeks. And  
6 we're going to be experiencing something that the  
7 oil pipeline, why it should not have been built.

8 I see the becal (phonetic), I said water or  
9 oil. I would say you drink some oil and let's see  
10 how long you live. I want to say the water is the  
11 crux of life.

12 (Applause.)

13 I am an environmentalist by nature. I am an  
14 artist, besides other careers. But I am an  
15 environmentalist by nature and an artist by  
16 education. I want to say that 42 years ago, I went  
17 to the art school in Sante Fe New Mexico, and I saw  
18 my brothers, I saw about three brothers who were  
19 painting oil barrels in the lakes, in the water, the  
20 collapse of skyscrapers, the pollution that was  
21 going to be happening to this earth. Now, that was  
22 a prediction 42 years ago, and I see it happening

23

1     today.

2             In my travels in the world, I have seen and  
3     heard from other good people that they were seeing  
4     the jetstreams moving as they are.  Been created by  
5     universal influences that I know a lot of people  
6     don't know about, but I do.  And so, I see that  
7     catastrophe is looming on the horizon.  And you  
8     people who want jobs, jobs are healthy.  Jobs are  
9     good for everybody.  So, are the higher institutions  
10    of education.  (Says something in a Native American  
11    language.)

12            These things that are happening are going to be  
13    showing us that these spills are going to continue  
14    no matter where, no matter how good you can feed the  
15    people your opinion.  People who are weak-willed  
16    will hear you.  They'll listen to you.

17            But the oil spills, like for instance, the one  
18    up in Fargo.  Not too many people know about that  
19    one.  That was from the same company on the same  
20    efforts.  That happened recently.  And all I can say  
21    is whatever goes around comes around, as that is  
22    what is happening today.  Positive advantages far

23



1     outweigh greed, hypocrisy, ignorance. And I  
2     encourage for all of us to disbound (sic) arrogance  
3     that we see in our lifetime, it is not a good  
4     quality to possess.

5             And I am going to want to pray, like I said,  
6     that President Obama makes the correct decision.  
7     Which I know that the people of the world are  
8     watching America, the American government. Because  
9     this is my land, this is my country, our country,  
10    but your government. And I'm opposed to that.  
11    Thank you.  
12    (Applause.)

13            MR. BARDESON: Hi, my name is Pete  
14    Bardeson. I'm the business manager for Laborers'  
15    Local 620 for the proud state of South Dakota.  
16    Today, I want to read you a story. It's a story  
17    that you hear in every town, every city, every state  
18    in the United States. And this is from a gentleman  
19    who we hired, sent to pipeline training and safety  
20    school and went to work and worked on the Keystone  
21    line that ran through the eastern part of South  
22    Dakota.

23

1           "My name is Bruce Pierson. I have lived in  
2       South Dakota all my life in the Sioux Falls area,  
3       since 1996. I have been a small business owner for  
4       the past eight years and managed well. My concrete  
5       business supported me and my family. We have four  
6       children, ages six, four and twins, age two.

7           We purchased a home in Crooks and lived well on  
8       my salary. This year however, I could not find a  
9       job. I was out looking, talking to people day after  
10      day, but there was no work.

11          When the pipeline hired me to work on the  
12      pipeline, I was desperate. We struggled to make our  
13      house payments and paid 1,200 dollars monthly for  
14      our health insurance because my twins have health  
15      problems. I was afraid that we were going to lose  
16      our home and all of our equity. And where do you  
17      put four kids, my wife and I?

18          I feel pipelines saved us. They pay me good  
19      money and provide insurance. There were 600 people  
20      working on my spread. All of them lived in small  
21      communities in South Dakota, bought groceries,  
22      clothing, gasoline for their vehicles. That had to

1     make an impact on those communities.

2             I have talked to other businessmen, and it  
3     doesn't look like my business is going to recover  
4     for a long time. I will need a job to be a  
5     productive father and South Dakotan. I hope South  
6     Dakota will support the pipeline construction.  
7     Bruce Pierson, South Dakota." Thank you.

8     (Applause.)

9             MR. STEELE: Next, I would like to call  
10    please, Mr. Andrew Catt Ironshell, Ms. Bernadette  
11    Usera, Ms. Lois Elaine Big Eagle, and Ms. Kristin  
12    Aschenbrenner, please.

13            MR. IRONSHELL: My name is Andrew  
14    Ironshell and I am a landholder in the Sicangu  
15    Lakota Sioux Nation.

16            My words to you today is that, at this time, it  
17    is felt that the United States government is  
18    breaking the law. You have failed to consult with  
19    our tribal nations as is required by law. We're  
20    asking you to follow the letter of your own law.  
21    That's what you hold me accountable to do. So,  
22    Secretary Clinton and President Obama, who should

23

1     know - he is a member of the Crow Nation, as I  
2     recall - that tribal nations are parallel to state  
3     governments, to federal government, and we should be  
4     at the table prior to this process here of meeting  
5     with tribal nations.

6             You have failed to fulfill that legal  
7     obligation. And when I talk about economic  
8     development that is coming to our area - I'm  
9     unemployed. I have six children. I have struggled  
10    with the health of my children as my fellow South  
11    Dakotan has just said.

12            But think about the economic development that  
13    we're asking to bring in that nobody is talking  
14    about. Look up north in Minot and Williston, and  
15    you'll find economic development of slum lords,  
16    prostitution, dope dealers. These are all symptoms  
17    that come in with these pipeline folks.

18            I'm not saying that our folks, our South Dakota  
19    workers probably have good values, most South  
20    Dakotans do. But you look at the pipeline in Alaska  
21    and the increase in sexual assaults, STD rates,  
22    unwarranted pregnancies, crime. Those are all

23

1 symptoms of the economic development that you guys  
2 want to pipe in here. Now, who wants to sacrifice  
3 their daughters in this room to that? At least one  
4 or two or three of you are going to pay that price.  
5 Now, are you going to sacrifice your children for  
6 that type of economic development? If you are, then  
7 good for you; we'll say some prayers for you like  
8 that. But that is the type of economic development  
9 that we're going to get.

10 We're not going to get lower gas prices, China  
11 will. We're just being used, and I'm totally  
12 against this pipeline personally. And I would ask  
13 that you do your job and meet with the tribes. And  
14 I can tell you right now that you will build a  
15 pipeline around our tribal nations because we're not  
16 going to allow it. Thank you for your time.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. USERA: I'm Bernadette Usera from  
19 Sturgis, South Dakota. Thank you for having us, Mr.  
20 Steele. I appreciate the time that you are putting  
21 into this.

22 If this is such a great deal, then why isn't

23

1 Canada developing it's own refining and taking care  
2 of this crude oil themselves and then building the  
3 pipeline all the way to their East Coast or their  
4 West Coast? Why across our land and our country?  
5 (Applause.)

6 The comments were made about some of the  
7 spills. They weren't that great. And I can't  
8 recall the gentleman that made the comment about,  
9 "Well, they were just small spills." I don't think  
10 Michigan would ever say that whatever happened with  
11 their pipeline was a small spill or the people  
12 around the Yellowstone River, where the recent spill  
13 was at. They would not say that was a small spill,  
14 and they will be for years cleaning up after that,  
15 just as they still are cleaning up after the Exxon  
16 Valdez. What was that, in 1989? They are still  
17 cleaning up from that, and they are still cleaning  
18 from BP's spill in the Gulf Coast.

19 Jobs are important. I will not deny that. We  
20 need the jobs here in the United States, but we also  
21 need clean water. Water is so important to us.  
22 Water is more important than even gold. And once  
23

1     you contaminate it, it's very difficult to get that  
2     clean water back again.

3             I grew up with a well on our yard, and that  
4     water was great to taste. It was always cold in the  
5     summertime. What's going to happen now? Not if the  
6     spill happens, but when that spill happens, and will  
7     it be over the aquifer that is there for all of us  
8     to use and not be contaminated by greed.

9             Because with this crude, why are we now going  
10    after tar sand oil? Are there not other ways of  
11    getting energy that we need? And I'm saying yes,  
12    let's use the solar. Let's use the windpower.  
13    Those are the things that we need to seriously be  
14    looking at and taking care of.  
15    (Applause.)

16            And the other quick comment was this isn't  
17    going to cost the taxpayers a dime, okay, because  
18    it's privately funded. Well, what's the heavy  
19    equipment going to be driving on? The bridges and  
20    the roads that you and I pay for. And who is going  
21    to repair them then? Those are the issues that we  
22    have to look at also. And I thank you for your

1 time.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. ASCHENBRENNER: Hi, my name is Kristin  
4 Aschenbrenner. I'm from Rapid City, South Dakota,  
5 and I'm here today on behalf of Dakota Young  
6 Democrats. We represent hundreds of members from  
7 throughout the state. They vary in age between 13  
8 and 36. We have high school chapters, college  
9 chapters, and community wide chapters for urban,  
10 rural and reservation communities across the state.

11 We oppose the pipeline for multiple reasons.  
12 You've heard a lot of arguments about job creation  
13 today. Most of those speakers have been from out of  
14 state.

15 If you look at the report from the Public  
16 Utilities Commission from hearings in South Dakota,  
17 you'll get the real story on job creation for our  
18 state. In that report, it specifically says that  
19 this will only create six long term jobs for South  
20 Dakota. That's it.

21 In addition, you've heard a lot about energy  
22 security. Most of the oil is destined for export

23



1     rather than for the U.S., and economists predict  
2     that this will actually raise gas prices in the  
3     Midwest.

4             Tar sands oil is one of the dirtiest fuels in  
5     the world, in addition to being highly corrosive.  
6     It will do nothing to move us towards clean energy,  
7     and the corrosive nature makes spills increasingly  
8     likely.  Keystone 1 is a clear indication of this,  
9     with 12 spills in 12 months.

10            We do support job creation, in addition to  
11     energy independence, but we don't believe that  
12     either of those things will come from the Keystone  
13     Pipeline.

14            For those reasons and more, the South Dakota  
15     Young Democrats oppose issuing a permit to Keystone.

16     Thank you.

17     (Applause.)

18                   MR. STEELE:  Are you Lois?  Please.

19                   MS. BIG EAGLE:  Thank you.  Thank you for  
20     allowing me to speak.  My name is Lois Elaine Big  
21     Eagle; I go by Elaine Eagle.

22            I would like to direct this most especially to

23

1     President Obama, and one picture is worth 1,000  
2     words. But I don't have a picture and words are all  
3     I have.

4             When the trees go down the land turns to sand.

5             I see the land nearly all turn to sand.

6             I see the earth, the sweet earth, red Mother  
7             Earth.

8             I see the sky; it used to be so blue and  
9             purified by the rain, the wind, the snow.

10            I see the eagle flying high in the sky,  
11            circling above with a message of love.

12            I see the land, the railroad tracks cutting  
13            through her back.

14            I see the black hole mine pit. The miners are  
15            steadily stripping away bit by bit.

16            I see the water glistening; the sun's rays  
17            reflecting the heavens on her face, alone in  
18            this place I call home.

19            But now walking in this place, broken glass and  
20            trash laying all over the place.

21            The signs of the times. What, shall we become  
22            like Mars then? Continue on this path of

23

1           destruction that leads to nowhere?

2           Are we all headed that way?

3           Mars is barren, unproductive, dry, lifeless,  
4           cold, fruitless, poor, pitiful and merciless.

5   Why can they not build a refinery in Canada  
6   then? Then they would not have to transport it so  
7   far across the country, making U.S.A. and Canada,  
8   the wager a merger?

9           Each speaker said, money, money, money over and  
10   over again. Money is not everything. The Lakota  
11   call the white people "Wasicus" and that means fat  
12   takers, greedy people, truce breakers, getting rich  
13   and fat off of the land, and now over our land. And  
14   now, they want to get fat off of Canada too.

15          Greed is the love of money. The love of money  
16   is the root of all evil, not the money itself, the  
17   love of it. More taxes, higher taxes, safety, who  
18   will clean it up? When will they clean it up? How  
19   soon, how often? The Yellowstone River took 59  
20   minutes before anybody even knew about it, the  
21   spill.

22          What about the cost to the land? The fish are

23

1 full of mercury as it is. Go ahead and kill them  
2 off then. The Alaska Pipeline was not without  
3 problems. And they couldn't even get it going  
4 because of the weather and weather problems.

5 When they first came here, they described this  
6 land as pristine. "Oh give me a home where the  
7 buffalo roam and the deer and the antelope play."  
8 Where beavers were busy working in every stream,  
9 where the squirrels could cross from the Atlantic  
10 Coast to Texas without ever touching the ground.  
11 All of this land is Lakota, Dakota land and is  
12 sacred land.

13 Land owners, we belong to the land, not that  
14 the land belongs to us. We are the keepers of the  
15 land and the water.

16 We need to respect Mother Earth. Thank you for  
17 your time.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. STEELE: Before we break in about five  
20 or six minutes, I'd like, please, if we could do Mr.  
21 Jay Davis and Mr. Phillip Wallace, please.

22 MR. DAVIS: Good afternoon, Mr. Steele,

23

1 welcome. My name is Jay Davis. I am an attorney  
2 from Rapid City. I've lived in South Dakota for the  
3 last 37 years. I'm here today to speak against  
4 granting the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline.

5 First and foremost, our water resource is our  
6 life blood in South Dakota, where we have  
7 experienced flooding this year. We're often short  
8 of good quality water. The aquifers that we're  
9 talking about potentially fouling, our aquifers from  
10 which people drink. They're aquifers from which  
11 stockman water their livestock, their cattle. The  
12 aquifer and the water resources are what produce our  
13 crops.

14 Nearly half a billion dollars has been invested  
15 in the Mini Wiconi Rural Water System, bringing good  
16 water to Indian reservations and rural west river  
17 communities that did not have it. At some point,  
18 the XL Pipeline intersects Mini Wiconi. A rupture  
19 could contaminate and destroy that investment that  
20 has finally brought good water to communities that  
21 needed it.

22 The Keystone 1 Pipeline already has a terrible  
23

1 record with spills. A number of speakers have  
2 referenced the 14 spills since June of last year.  
3 We're talking about caustic tar sands oil that's  
4 very different from West Texas crude or the oil that  
5 we're used to using in this country.

6 The Keystone XL Pipeline has no emergency  
7 response plan to deal with-

8 MR. STEELE: Your microphone has gone  
9 dead.

10 MR. DAVIS: Okay, is it working now?

11 MR. STEELE: I'm not sure it's working,  
12 but I can hear you well. There's a separate  
13 microphone for the reporter.

14 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. We're talking  
15 about some of the most caustic oil on the face of  
16 the Earth. It's far more corrosive than West Texas  
17 crude, and the stuff that we've used to fill our gas  
18 tanks in the past.

19 South Dakota's been pushing or working towards  
20 cleaner fuel, towards renewable's and alternative  
21 energy sources. It's my understanding that the tar  
22 sands oil from Alberta is 15 to 20 percent more

23

1 carbon intensive than the crude oil we've been  
2 using. Thus, it turns a Prius into a Hummer, in  
3 terms of the contribution of carbons in the  
4 atmosphere.

5 South Dakota is already experiencing climate  
6 change. That doesn't always mean it's progressively  
7 hotter every year. We've had catastrophic flooding.  
8 We've had bark beetle infestation in the Black Hills  
9 because it doesn't get cold enough in the winter any  
10 more to have a die off of the beetles.

11 We have an obligation not to continue to heat  
12 the planet out of control and cause worse and worse  
13 catastrophic climate change. We are a part of the  
14 whole. I would ask that the State Department to not  
15 issue the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. WALLACE: My name is Phillip Wallace,  
19 and I'm here today in support of TransCanada  
20 Keystone XL Pipeline. I'm a proud 36 year welder,  
21 member of Pipeliners' Local 798 of the United  
22 Association, which has over 340,000 members in the

23

1 United States and Canada working in the pipeline and  
2 pipe trades industry.

3 I serve my local as business agent of the  
4 midwest states that the XL Pipeline will be laid in  
5 if permitted. I've worked with TransCanada since  
6 2008 on the 30 inch Keystone Pipeline that ran from  
7 North Dakota, Canadian border to Kushing, Oklahoma  
8 and Potoka, Illinois. So, I know TransCanada pretty  
9 well.

10 The four crafts that build these pipelines, the  
11 Operating Engineers, United Association, the  
12 Teamsters, the International Labor Union. We all  
13 are well trained. We have training centers at our  
14 home locales, and we train our young members into  
15 being the craftsmen it takes to build a good  
16 pipeline.

17 And we also, in our training centers, like some  
18 other members have already said, we are very  
19 accepting to our young men and women coming out of  
20 the military. And that's something we need to look  
21 at. We need to get our young sons and daughters out  
22 of that Mid East that are fighting for this oil.

23



1 And getting it from our close neighbors, that's a  
2 no-brainer. We've got to have this. The jobs it  
3 creates, over 13,000 jobs. And these are for  
4 American workers, not Canadian workers, like it's  
5 been said.

6 Over in Glendive and here today, I heard a lot  
7 of untrue facts that have been said about the leaks.  
8 There has been some leaks. The Keystone Pipeline  
9 has not been ruptured. The leaks were inside these  
10 pump stations on small bore piping, half inch, one  
11 inch, threaded piping, not welded pipe. Threaded  
12 piping, screwed fittings, that ruptured, broke in  
13 the threads due to the vibration of the pumps.

14 And another point I want to - - the vibration  
15 of the pipeline was shut, and then the pipeline was  
16 shutdown when the valves were closed. These  
17 stations with the spills were not built with union  
18 craftsmanship. But TransCanada has brought our  
19 contractors in, and I have dispatched my welders,  
20 not my welders, my brother welders and pipefitters  
21 into these stations to make these repairs and rework  
22 these stations. And I dispatched these welders to

1     these pump stations back as far as Memorial Day.  
2     Memorial Day weekend was when they called me about  
3     these leaks.

4             And a reportable leak is five gallons on the  
5     ground. That's a reportable leak. I know of two  
6     significant leaks. A lot of people say 14 leaks.  
7     They may have been. But I know of two significant  
8     leaks. I have these crews in these stations today,  
9     still working, reworking, this pipe, reworking the  
10    emergency shutdown systems, retubing the  
11    instrumentation, and we are still there making it  
12    better.

13            TransCanada has learned from mistakes, and we  
14    are too. So, I ask Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton to  
15    please grant this permit, so we can get this  
16    pipeline in progress. Thank you.

17    (Applause.)

18            MR. STEELE: Okay, ladies and gentlemen,  
19    thank you very, very much for all of the views that  
20    you have given. I want to say something to Mr.  
21    Harter. I meant to offer that if the rest of your  
22    remarks are in written form, I would be glad to take  
23

1       them and make sure that they are considered.

2               MR. HARTER:   Thank you.

3               MR. STEELE:   But thank all of you for your  
4       views because we will consider everything that has  
5       been said here today.

6               We're going to take a break for about half an  
7       hour or so.   We will probably come back, oh I don't  
8       know, maybe say, five after four.   So, we will  
9       please welcome you back at that time.   Thank you  
10      very much.

11      (WHEREUPON, A break was taken.)

12              MR. STEELE:   Ladies and gentlemen, we'd  
13      like to go ahead and get started again, please.   So  
14      those of you out in the lobby, if you would come in  
15      and take your seats, we can get started.

16              I would like to start please with number 111,  
17      that is Peter Carrels, and then Ms. Barbara  
18      Sogn-Frank, Dana Loseke and Kevin Miller please.  
19      Please go ahead, we're ready when you are.

20              MR. CARRELS:   All right.   My name is Peter  
21      Carrels.   I live in Aberdeen, South Dakota.   I'm a  
22      native of South Dakota.   I live in Aberdeen, which

23

1 is my home town. And Aberdeen is not far from the  
2 first TransCanada Pipeline. We saw the influence of  
3 pipeliners in my community for about a year. I  
4 happen to work for the Sierra Club, and I oppose the  
5 XL Pipeline.

6 Pipeline proponents have described the XL issue  
7 as pitting anti-oil extremists versus a solid  
8 company offering jobs and oil security. And I see  
9 this as an inaccurate characterization on both  
10 scores. I think we need to incorporate a stronger  
11 level of scrutiny when we examine this pipeline and  
12 the company proposing the pipeline. We've heard  
13 plenty of rhetoric here today, most of it unproven.

14 I submit that this pipeline is not in our  
15 nation's best interests nor is it in the best  
16 interest of South Dakota. It would not offer energy  
17 security. It would not offer substantial permanent  
18 employment opportunities in our state. It would not  
19 adequately protect natural resources or public  
20 health in South Dakota or elsewhere.

21 The problems with this pipeline begin at its  
22 source. This tar sands mining is the biggest,

1 largest ecological disaster in the history of  
2 mankind. We can't forget that. Is it in our  
3 nation's interest to host a problematic pipeline  
4 intended to expand international market  
5 opportunities, including in China, for tar sands oil  
6 investors?

7 This is an export pipeline. Despite all the  
8 rhetoric about energy security, oil security, this  
9 is an export pipeline and make no mistake about it.  
10 Is it in our nation's interest to aid development of  
11 the world's most carbon emitting crude oil, when we  
12 recognize the vital need to limit carbon emissions?  
13 I think the answer to that question is no.

14 TransCanada claims it's export pipeline will be  
15 safe. They said the exact same thing about the  
16 Keystone 1 Pipeline. In fact, they said it under  
17 oath to our public utilities commissioner. That was  
18 inaccurate. I think it was deceitful. TransCanada  
19 says that the one dozen or more malfunctions that  
20 have already happened on Keystone 1 originate in the  
21 system's valves and pump stations and not in the  
22 pipe itself. This is how they try to deflect

23

1     accountability.

2             Now, we can not forget that on that breach of  
3     pipe there was a 60 foot geyser of oil escaping a  
4     pump station along Keystone 1. That malfunction  
5     happened last May during the South Dakota, North  
6     Dakota border. Is was reported to TransCanada by a  
7     landowner residing near that faulty pump station  
8     before TransCanada responded to their own so-called  
9     leak detection system. We'll never know how much  
10    more oil than 20,000 gallons would have escaped from  
11    the Keystone 1 system at that location, if not for a  
12    vigilant farmer en route to an early Sunday morning  
13    church service.

14            I don't trust TransCanada. I don't like the  
15    way they have treated my fellow South Dakotans.  
16    You've heard from several ranchers here who have  
17    struggled with TransCanada. Same thing happened in  
18    Eastern South Dakota. I don't think their pipeline  
19    is in the best interest of this nation, and I ask  
20    that this permit be denied. Thank you.

21    (Applause.)

22            MS. SOGN-FRANK: Hello, thank you for this

23

1 opportunity to be heard. My name is Barbara  
2 Sogn-Frank. I'm from Sioux Falls. I was born and  
3 raised in South Dakota. I'm a resident of South  
4 Dakota. I took the day off today to be here because  
5 I feel that this is so important. This is a pivotal  
6 decision for our state and for our nation.

7 I feel it's vital to be here, to stand up on  
8 this issue and this question. I want to stand with  
9 other South Dakotans. I am especially offended that  
10 South Dakotans have been bullied and threatened by a  
11 foreign company, and I would like to think that our  
12 state government would stand up and protect all  
13 South Dakotans, all residents of our state, and not  
14 allow that kind of behavior.

15 I stand with all South Dakotans. I stand with  
16 tribal nations, and I also want to stand up with the  
17 state of Nebraska, who had the guts and the courage  
18 to say no to TransCanada. And I think we need to  
19 say no, too. I think we need to say no on this one  
20 in particular.

21 To go through, to take a pipeline, to argue  
22 back and forth about whether a pipeline is safe, let  
23

1     alone a tar sands pipeline, but to put it through,  
2     across and over the largest aquifer in the United  
3     States millions of people depend on, is just lunacy.  
4     It's lunacy, and I don't want my daughter and her  
5     children and our children in the future to look back  
6     and have to say, "What were you thinking? What were  
7     you thinking?"

8             We can't clean up the Gulf. Huge areas of the  
9     Gulf are already identified as dead zones. We  
10    don't know if they'll come back, and we don't even  
11    know what the implications, what damage has been  
12    done. No one knows how to clean up an aquifer. No  
13    one knows how to clean up an aquifer.

14            The climate issue, we are at 390 parts per  
15    million in carbon. We have to be at 350 in order to  
16    at least maintain a climate that our planet can  
17    withstand. Continuing tar sands production is not  
18    going to help us do that.

19            We talked about America's dependence on oil.  
20    We don't have to be dependent on oil. Henry Ford  
21    developed a car that ran on corn alcohol. That was  
22    his first invention. And it was only because of



1     Rockefeller and Standard Oil forcing through  
2     prohibition that finally forced Ford to go ahead and  
3     acquiesce and develop his vehicles so that they ran  
4     on oil instead, on gasoline.

5             We can do better. We can do better. We need  
6     more vision and more courage to say no to this  
7     pipeline now. It's the wrong thing for South Dakota  
8     and for our nation. Let's put our great resources  
9     of South Dakota ingenuity and courage into  
10    developing our research and development capabilities  
11    with our universities, supporting Dakota Rural  
12    Action, supporting Rural Learning Center, smaller,  
13    independent efforts that are truly building jobs and  
14    supporting communities and individuals and families  
15    within South Dakota. Thank you very much.

16    (Applause.)

17             MR. LOSEKE: Hi, my name is Dana Loseke.  
18     I'm a resident of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and a  
19     registered independent voter. I was not paid to be  
20     here, and I am not a paid lobbyist.

21             For the past several years, I was general  
22     manager for dairy plants here in South Dakota and

23

1     the state of Iowa. We process and deliver milk,  
2     dairy and ice cream in seven midwest states. In our  
3     business, as you understand, we are a large user of  
4     diesel fuel for our fleet of trucks. We're a heavy  
5     user of high density polyethylene resin for  
6     packaging, and user of electricity to refrigerate  
7     and process our products.

8           Over the past few years, our company's goal was  
9     to reduce our energy use and our carbon footprint by  
10    30 percent. Through a number of initiatives that we  
11    started at our plant and through our corporate  
12    office, we are able to reduce our diesel fuel usage.  
13    We were able to reduce our high density polyethylene  
14    usage, and our electricity usage was reduced. And  
15    at the same time, we doubled our sales and our  
16    profits.

17           We played by the rules, and we won. And so  
18    we're an industry, and we're a company that shows  
19    that it can be done with existing resources, with  
20    existing people. And we kept jobs and expanded  
21    jobs. We did not have to rely on a foreign  
22    corporation or a foreign country telling us what to

1 do.

2 If all U.S. companies worked to conserve the  
3 energy they use today, the interests of the United  
4 States would be far better served than a pipeline  
5 bringing oil sludge with cancer causing chemicals  
6 across our rivers, farmlands, wells and aquifers.

7 And to those of you that may still be here that  
8 said, "Yeah, TransCanada Pipeline may be a little  
9 bit of an inconvenience." I'm telling you, if you  
10 have cancer, if your children or one of your  
11 relatives has cancer, that's not a little  
12 inconvenience. That is a heartbreaking, agonizing  
13 slow death.

14 When I first heard about the TransCanada  
15 Pipeline, like all Americans, I naively assumed that  
16 it was going to be good to add regular crude to our  
17 oil supply. But when I learned it was from tar  
18 sands, the dirtiest, most toxic fuel source known  
19 today, with Benzene and Naphthalene, known  
20 carcinogens, going to be a potential to our water  
21 supply, I became very concerned about the safety of  
22 our watershed and our farmlands.

23

1           The conclusions I reach from the research that  
2   I did was, number one, the EPA, the agency that has  
3   the expertise in protecting our environment, said it  
4   is far too dangerous to go ahead with this project.  
5   NASA scientist quote was, "If we go ahead with this  
6   project, game over, as far as global warming goes."

7           And if we are worried about losing jobs, think  
8   what it's going do to our economy, from rising sea  
9   waters when our coastal cities and ports are  
10   inundated with sea waters.

11          Third, TransCanada has already had 14 spills in  
12   one year. That's seven times greater than what the  
13   State Department estimates were, seven times  
14   greater. Their track record guarantees that we will  
15   have Benzene in our aquifers and in our water.

16          TransCanada, fourth, did not follow through on  
17   promises to our landowners. On the first pipeline,  
18   they did not even follow through with the promises  
19   that they made to the Public Utilities Commission  
20   here in South Dakota, as verified by landowners  
21   where they built the pipeline.

22          TransCanada has promised to support 600,000  
23

1 jobs in their recent ad. Most industry estimates  
2 say there is 20,000 jobs, at best. So, I assume the  
3 other 580,000 jobs are janitors' jobs in cleaning up  
4 from oil spills. I don't think the U.S. wants to be  
5 Canada's janitor.

6 It is not in our national interest, again, to  
7 postpone our drive for renewable clean energy. It  
8 is not in our best interest to favor a foreign  
9 country's goals over that of our own citizens,  
10 farmers and landowners. And it is not in our best  
11 interest to allow foreign corporations to dictate  
12 U.S. policies.

13 Finally, in quoting President Obama, "We need  
14 to end the age of oil in our time. That is how we  
15 can best serve our country's interest."

16 I strongly urge you to not approve the  
17 TransCanada 2 Pipeline. Thank you.  
18 (Applause.)

19 MR. STEELE: May I call please, Mr. Bob  
20 Graske? Mr. Paul Moehole, Mr. Kevin Miller and Mr.  
21 Richard Hauffe.

22 MR. GRASKE: Good afternoon. My name is

1 Bob Graske. I am a member of the Minnesota Building  
2 Trades, the Minnesota Pipe Trades and representative  
3 of the Minneapolis Pipefitters' Local 539.

4 I'm here today to support this pipeline  
5 project. For several reasons, I support it. To  
6 save time, I'll narrow it down to just my top three  
7 ones.

8 This thing is going to create thousands of  
9 jobs. Thousands of good paying jobs, which we  
10 desperately need right now, not only for the  
11 pipefitters but for all construction trades.  
12 Currently, they average about 20 percent  
13 unemployment rate, well above the nation's average.

14 They are going to create good paying jobs that  
15 will help stimulate the local economy. And probably  
16 my most important reason is they will reduce our  
17 dependency on getting our oil from the Mid East and  
18 create a bunch of jobs all across America. Thank  
19 you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MOEHOLE: Hello, my name is Paul  
22 Moehole, and I'm a member of the local 49ers. You

23

1     know, I've heard a lot of different opinions about  
2     this pipeline and what's going on, and a lot of  
3     people left. It just showed to me how ignorant some  
4     of the people are, that are saying the pipeline  
5     brings STDs into the community and whorehouses and  
6     drugs and all that.

7             I live in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. We had a  
8     pipeline go through there a year and a half ago.  
9     Our economy needed it desperately, and it really  
10    helped me and my family.

11            And some people, they give different opinions,  
12    and that's what makes this country great. We all  
13    have our opinions and then we find the best one to  
14    go with. But as far as polluting the air, polluting  
15    the Mother Earth and all that, I know when I go to  
16    any pipeline that I've been dispatched out to, we go  
17    through a rigorous four hours of environmental  
18    safety, environmental this. I don't know how many  
19    times that the environmental people are on the site.  
20    Every day I see one of them. To me as an operator,  
21    as a professional, I take pride in what I do, and I  
22    care about the landowner. I'm not going through

1     there ripping up his land thinking, well, it doesn't  
2     really matter to me. Because in Grand Rapids,  
3     Minnesota, it mattered to me, and our pipeline looks  
4     great. I can't even tell it went through.

5             And I'm in support of this, and I thank you for  
6     letting me come to South Dakota. Some of the people  
7     had mentioned that they are appalled that I'm here  
8     from Minnesota. Well actually, when you guys came  
9     up from South Dakota and worked on our pipeline,  
10    hey, we welcomed you; we support. It's a free  
11    country, and that's why I'm here in South Dakota.  
12    Have a great day.

13    (Applause.)

14             MR. MILLER: Thanks for the opportunity to  
15    speak. My name is Kevin Miller. I reside in  
16    Casper, Wyoming. But as a special pipeline  
17    representative with the International Union of  
18    Operating Engineers, my job is to take care of  
19    thousands and thousands of pipeliners with the  
20    operating engineers that specialize in the  
21    construction that we are discussing today.

22             Everywhere from Maine to Hawaii, Alaska all the

23



1 way to Florida, everybody needs to go to work.

2 Everybody wants work. It's no secret that you will  
3 find variety on this job when it goes. You will see  
4 probably 30 or 40 different state's plates.

5 It is what it is, but I can assure you South  
6 Dakota will go to work if they choose to go to work  
7 for good paying jobs and benefits. The benefits  
8 that are paid by the employers that are hiring them  
9 that don't cost the taxpayer money.

10 When our kids get sick, our wives or ourselves,  
11 we go to the hospital. We're covered. We've earned  
12 our dues on that one.

13 There are a couple of things. I heard earlier  
14 a gentleman speaking that - - almost conspiracy  
15 theory like, and I'm not to insult anybody. But it  
16 would be asinine for TransCanada to take and build a  
17 seven billion dollar line down to the Gulf if they  
18 are just going to export the damned stuff. When it  
19 would be a heck of a lot cheaper for them, if that  
20 were the case, for them just to kick it over to  
21 their coast and ship it to China to build the Red  
22 Army.

23

1           I am here today to urge the State Department to  
2   approve that presidential permit for the  
3   construction of TransCanada's Keystone Project.

4           There are a lot of people, in the very  
5   beginning, and that's all I've heard, but few people  
6   have talked about other aspects. They talk about  
7   contaminating the Ogallala Aquifer. It's a monster,  
8   I think everybody is aware. But what about the  
9   towns that have been built on this thing? Nobody  
10   can argue that one. How about the crops that are  
11   growing on this bugger, and I'm pretty sure - and  
12   God bless the farmers, because we need them,  
13   there's no two ways about that - the pesticides  
14   that are put on these. You don't think some of that  
15   permeates in? But you don't hear a whole lot of  
16   complaining or uproaring from opposition on that on  
17   a yearly basis.

18          No one can guarantee anything, especially that  
19   this thing might not have a leak. TransCanada has  
20   agreed, to the best of my understanding, they agreed  
21   to increase valves for shutoffs, to make things a  
22   lot more feasible. In this case, taking a lot more  
23

1     preventative measures than anything else in the  
2     country.

3             You can't predict everything that goes on. We  
4     go to Mount Rainier. One of these days, she is  
5     going to crack loose. Are we supposed to, in the  
6     mean time, to prevent all that silica dust from  
7     going in the air, are we supposed to go and put a  
8     big-ass cork in it? I doubt it.

9             So, the facts are the facts. I think everybody  
10    here has got a true environmentalist in them. But  
11    there needs to be reason versus extremism, and I  
12    hope that people understand the importance of this.

13            Yes, it is jobs, but it is also in everybody's  
14    mind that when we are building this - - and  
15    TransCanada is not some frickin' villain of the  
16    world. I'm glad that there are outfits out there  
17    keeping them on their toes. I think it's awesome.  
18    I think they should use good materials. But take  
19    into consideration where it will go versus where it  
20    can go, and what it can do to spur our economy. And  
21    it will spur. A loss of revenue in any small town  
22    is nothing but a farce. So, thank you for the time

23

1     once again.

2     (Applause.)

3                 MR. HAUFFE:  Thanks for coming to South  
4     Dakota and holding a hearing.  I hope you enjoy your  
5     stay up here, and we appreciate your willingness to  
6     listen to all this.  And I do appreciate all the  
7     testimony that came forward today from all points of  
8     view.  We all look at this in different ways, from  
9     different walks of life, and everybody's opinions  
10    are valid.  And I appreciate the respect that has  
11    occurred here today on an issue that can be  
12    emotional.

13                I stand in opposition to this pipeline.  I do  
14    not stand in opposition to energy development in the  
15    United States.  I do not stand in opposition to  
16    jobs.  This nation is desperate for jobs.  We have  
17    nine percent unemployment.

18                We have a Congress that would rather argue  
19    about nothing, and there is no sense of urgency to  
20    fix the problems.  But other than the fact that  
21    union members are going to get a major gig, I can't  
22    say anything good about this pipeline.  And I urge

23

1     that it is taken off the books. I don't expect  
2     that's going to happen. My presence here today  
3     isn't so much for myself; it's for my grandson and  
4     the world that he is going to inherit because this  
5     nation is at a desperate crossroads, and we have  
6     some ugly choices. We have some other choices that  
7     are better for us, but we don't have a Congress that  
8     wants to do anything about that. But crossing this  
9     road and making a poor choice to get jobs that are  
10    temporary, largely, and going to go away is not  
11    acceptable.

12           The thing about pipelines, I worked as an  
13    ironworker on power houses at Point of Rocks,  
14    Wyoming and down at Sioux City. Had a lot of fun at  
15    Rock Springs and worked with a lot of interesting  
16    people. But the thing is the job to build a  
17    pipeline will last a season, and they are going to  
18    be good paying jobs. But this is like being married  
19    and waking up the next morning to somebody you don't  
20    want to be with.

21           I just want to back up a little bit here  
22    because I think facts are very, very important. But  
23

1 the Pipeline Safety Trust - and let's talk about the  
2 substance we're running through this pipe - the  
3 Pipeline Safety Trust, and there's been a lot of  
4 references to pipelines, crude pipelines largely and  
5 natural gas pipelines. But this is not the same  
6 thing, it's not even close to the same thing. Let's  
7 just consider what's going through this pipeline.

8 The acidity level of conventional crude versus  
9 tar sands shows that tar sands has three to nine  
10 times higher acidity level, viscosity, thickness.  
11 It is more than 30 times higher viscosity. Sulphur  
12 content is ten times more than the regular crude  
13 going through all these pipelines that are built and  
14 maintained across our nation.

15 The pipeline temperatures, and I heard somebody  
16 say something, and I think it was kind of an error  
17 about what it is. Normal pipelines, conventional  
18 crude, the temperature - - Oh God, you're saying  
19 thank you so soon. Just a second. - - runs about  
20 100 degrees Fahrenheit. But because you're running  
21 thick sludge through these things, it runs up to 158  
22 degrees.

23

1           The pipeline pressure in normal conventional  
2   crude is around 600 pounds, and in a tar sands  
3   pipeline it runs 1,440 pounds per square inch.  
4   Abrasives, and this is the clincher, in conventional  
5   crude it is nil. That's why we grease our engines  
6   with it. With this Keystone XL, maximum capacity  
7   means over 125 pounds of quartz sands and luminous  
8   silicates - I think I said that right - are running  
9   through per minute.

10           Compare that to common sandblasters, which run  
11   anywhere from 1.5 pounds to 47 pounds. We're  
12   talking about 125 pounds running through it, per  
13   minute.

14           What we have here is the worst possible energy  
15   source, - particularly when you consider much higher  
16   carbon emissions from processing this stuff, and  
17   running it through the tailpipe - mined in the worst  
18   possible way, through the worst possible delivery  
19   system, over the worst possible course, for God's  
20   sake, the world's largest aquifer in our nation, in  
21   North America. And this thing is going to break.  
22   It's going to be highly problematic, and I thank you  
23

1 for your time.

2 (Applause.)

3 COURT REPORTER: He did not identify  
4 himself on the record.

5 MR. STEELE: Excuse me?

6 COURT REPORTER: He did not identify  
7 himself of the record.

8 MR. STEELE: You are Richard Hauffe?

9 MR. HAUFFE: Hauffe.

10 MR. STEELE: Hauffe, Richard Hauffe.

11 MR. HAUFFE: Sorry.

12 MR. STEELE: Yes, let's move along please.

13 Number 118, Brian Raines; 119, Robert Chastan and  
14 120, Chad Gilbert please.

15 MR. RAINES: Hello and thank you. My name  
16 is Brian Raines, business agent for Millwrights 548.  
17 I represent 600 members from South Dakota and  
18 Minnesota, and I would like to pledge their support  
19 to this project. Thank you for hearing me.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. STEELE: Is Robert Chastan here,  
22 please?

23



1                   MR. CHASTAN: Thank you for allowing me to  
2 be here. My name is Robert Chastan, I'm the  
3 pipeline director for Local 49 of the Operating  
4 Engineers, covering South Dakota, North Dakota and  
5 Minnesota.

6                   I'm here today to support the line. I have  
7 heard many of the different sides to it. I've been  
8 working in the pipeline industry for 25 plus years,  
9 and out of those years, I have had an opportunity to  
10 work for TransCanada. I know firsthand the  
11 importance they take in environmental safety and all  
12 the issues. They go the extra mile.

13                  These jobs that people are talking about are  
14 temporary. I raised my family on these temporary  
15 jobs, and so do many thousands of my fellow brothers  
16 and sisters, raise their families.

17                  For those that say change careers, I say to  
18 them, why don't they change careers? I feel this is  
19 a safe way to get our oil, that we all know we need,  
20 and to get it from our neighbors is the best route  
21 to go.

22                  I live right, actually, within an hour from  
23

1 Canada. I've had the opportunity to go fishing in  
2 Canada and their brothers and sisters come over and  
3 fish in my area, I respect them. I am in full  
4 support of this, and I speak for many thousands of  
5 our members that are in support of this line. And I  
6 urge the politicians to move forward with this line  
7 and give us some of these jobs they're promising us  
8 that they got our votes to get them in there on.

9 I fly my red, white and blue and my POW flag  
10 with pride. I'm proud to be an American. I'm glad  
11 that I work all over this country, and that's our  
12 right. And thank you for allowing me to come here  
13 and speak.

14 (Applause.)

15 Mr. STEELE: Chad Gilbert, please.

16 MR. GILBERT: Mr. Steele, I would like to  
17 thank you and the State Department for holding this  
18 hearing, and send my greetings to Ms. Clinton. My  
19 name is Chad Gilbert, and I currently work for the  
20 membership of UA Pipeline Local Union 798 as a  
21 business agent for a large portion of the western  
22 United States.

23

1           I have come to this hearing to represent those  
2   I serve who support the Keystone XL Pipeline. I  
3   would like to start by talking about what we do,  
4   which is the welding of the pipe and to inform you  
5   of the proud heritage our local has of doing the job  
6   right the first time.

7           In our history, we have built projects like the  
8   TransAlaska Pipeline and recently, the Ruby  
9   Pipeline. I can assure you we are the most  
10   qualified pipeline workforce and the best welders in  
11   the world. Our contractors are not the cheapest  
12   bid, but the most environmentally friendly  
13   contractors in the world to date.

14          I can assure you that this pipeline will be  
15   built with our commitment for safety to the  
16   environment of the communities it passes through.  
17   We do not leave a weld unless it is welded, knowing  
18   our responsibility to get it right the first time.

19          We care about the concerns of the  
20   environmentalists, ranchers, landowners and the  
21   tribes because many of our members are all of the  
22   above. We hear your concerns, and we thrive on the

1 challenge to build the safest pipeline in the  
2 history of our country.

3 This pipeline is in the national interest of  
4 our country, which is in need of good paying jobs.  
5 We need a boost to our struggling economy. Why not  
6 use oil from a friendly nation, instead of a country  
7 we'll have to fight wars with to stabilize our oil  
8 supply.

9 This pipeline will be built to higher standards  
10 than any job we have ever done. Those I represent  
11 are concerned about pipeline safety, and we wish all  
12 lines in America were held to the standard this  
13 pipeline will have to adhere to.

14 We, as a country, need this job for many  
15 reasons that I feel strongly outweigh the negatives.  
16 All of us in the room are a coalition for a better  
17 America. And I ask you not to allow the press or  
18 the extremists on both sides to divide us. Let's  
19 address our concerns and go to work to build the  
20 best pipeline ever built.

21 The EIS report has plainly stated this pipeline  
22 will have little adverse effect on the environment.

1 And those I represent trust and respect the report.  
2 We should and can work together to build a sound and  
3 a safe pipeline. Those I represent would request  
4 the State Department to approve this, hope and  
5 benefits for our country and our workers. Thank  
6 you, Mr. Steele.  
7 (Applause.)

8 Mr. STEELE: I'd like to call please, Mr.  
9 Jerry Reisenauer, Ms. Kathryn Weller-Lena, Mr. John  
10 Iversen and Ms. Jennifer Lena, please.

11 MR. REISENAUER: Good afternoon. My name  
12 is Jerry Reisenauer. I am the general manager of  
13 Grand Electric Cooperative Incorporated in Bison,  
14 South Dakota. I am also a lifetime South Dakota  
15 resident and a landowner in Western South Dakota.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to address this  
17 group today. I'm here today to voice my support to  
18 the Keystone XL Pipeline. We have heard many  
19 comments on the pipeline today and a number of facts  
20 and figures.

21 I believe that the Keystone Pipeline is  
22 important to the economic diversity in our area.

23

1 Grand Electric will have the opportunity to serve  
2 three pump stations in Northwestern South Dakota.

3 I, along with the Board of Directors of Grand  
4 Electric, believe that the pipeline will enhance the  
5 development of our natural resources and ensure the  
6 development of U.S. resources in our area, which can  
7 only ensure the sustainability of energy  
8 independence in our state and nation.

9 We have heard many individuals address the  
10 safety concerns, and I agree that all safety issues  
11 need to be addressed and protocols implemented. I  
12 believe that the federal and state agencies have  
13 done their job and have and will place adequate  
14 restrictions and requirements on TransCanada to  
15 assure that the pipeline does not pose unreasonable  
16 risk or exposure.

17 We have heard many individuals talk about the  
18 20,000 new jobs, 470 million in new spending that  
19 will come to our state, an additional 10 million in  
20 tax dollars that will be generated.

21 We have also heard why securing the supply of  
22 oil from a neighbor, trading partner and stable  
23

1 nation is far better than to continue to purchase  
2 oil from unstable, unfriendly Middle East countries.  
3 I agree with those comments.

4 In addition to those positive things that the  
5 pipeline will bring, I'd like to spend a minute or  
6 two addressing another aspect of the pipeline. That  
7 is what does the pipeline do for domestic energy  
8 production?

9 In January 2011, TransCanada closed a  
10 successful open season, which resulted in long term  
11 commitment of 65,000 barrels of oil per day that  
12 will be moved into this pipeline in an on-ramp that  
13 will be built near Baker, Montana. Those 65,000  
14 barrels of oil will be pumped from the Bakken  
15 Formation within the Williston Basin, which is  
16 located in Western North Dakota, Eastern Montana and  
17 dips down into Northwestern South Dakota and the  
18 Grand Electric service area.

19 In the September 22nd edition of the Oil Patch  
20 Hotline, which is an on line news letter that  
21 reports on the oil activity in the North Central  
22 United States, there were four facts and statements

1 I would like to share with you.

2 The first is, "In July 2011, a new record of  
3 423,550 barrels per day were extracted from the  
4 Bakken Formation in North Dakota.

5 The second is - Time? Okay. Second is if the  
6 current rate of production increases, North Dakota  
7 could be classified as the third largest oil  
8 producing state in the nation.

9 The third is according to North Dakota  
10 Governor, Jack Dalrymple, within the next two years,  
11 North Dakota could be producing as much as 700,000  
12 barrels of oil per day. If we indeed sent 25  
13 percent of that oil down the pipeline, we will be  
14 sending 175,000 barrels of domestically produced  
15 crude oil down the pipeline daily.

16 I would encourage you to approve the  
17 presidential permit and allow the pipeline to move  
18 forward. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. IVERSEN: Good afternoon, my name is  
21 John Iversen. I ranch about 40 miles southwest of  
22 here and the Keystone XL is going through about a

23



1 mile of my land.

2 I'm 100 percent against the route that it's  
3 taking. I think there's probably better ways. The  
4 U.S. State Department has shown that the tar sands  
5 could be moved by rail or tanker to refineries in  
6 the eastern states of the U.S.. This would be a  
7 safer choice. It would still create jobs and help  
8 the economy. Most important, it would protect the  
9 Ogallala Aquifer and other water ways, which  
10 provides water to millions of people.

11 The unions have talked about the thousands of  
12 jobs it creates, but I'm talking about the millions  
13 of people that could be without water down the road.  
14 That's a big issue. I think the water quality is my  
15 big concern.

16 I know that if TransCanada would step up to the  
17 plate and be 100 percent accountable for their  
18 spills, I wouldn't feel quite so bad.

19 But my land, they're going to hide behind the  
20 state laws. The states, they're going to say,  
21 "You're a low priority area." They're probably  
22 going to clean up 85 percent of it, and I'm going to

23

1     be stuck with the rest of it.  It's not right.

2             And the water situation, the Ogallala Aquifer.

3     It's terrible to go through there.  You're talking  
4     millions of people that could be without water, I  
5     mean, contaminated.

6             Most of you people have never been through a  
7     drought.  We just went through one.  This year was a  
8     tremendous year, but we went through six or seven  
9     years of drought in this state, and consequently,  
10    look south, the drought they're going through right  
11    now.  Water is a big issue.

12            We, in this state and my county, we get our  
13    water right out of this river.  We've got rural  
14    water, which we just got in the last seven, eight,  
15    ten years.  The only thing that saved the cattle  
16    economy down there.  Our dams went dry, we had no  
17    water.  If it wouldn't have been for rural water, we  
18    probably would have been out of the business.  Big  
19    issue, water.

20            Big issue, my dealings with TransCanada, "You  
21    take our way or the highway."  Pretty much.  They  
22    bully you around a lot.

23

1           I guess there is no guarantee that this oil is  
2   going to stay in the United States. I sure hope it  
3   does. If it's going across our property, it would  
4   make me feel a little better anyway. Some of it is  
5   probably going to be shipped abroad, I don't know.

6           I guess to the union workers, there seems to be  
7   a lot of them here today. If I'm correct, and I  
8   think I am, I think the steel workers were begging  
9   TransCanada to buy the pipe from them, and I think  
10   they went to India and bought the pipe. Third rate  
11   pipe for a lot less money. You should have been  
12   there supporting them two years ago.

13          And if there's some of you out there that need  
14   a job, I'll sure hire you because I work my butt  
15   off, and I'm getting tired of it. I could use some  
16   help.

17   (Applause.)

18                 MR. STEELE: Is Kathryn Weller-Lena here  
19   and Jennifer Lena? If not, then we'll go on. I  
20   would like to please ask 125, Greg Dlein, Dlein; and  
21   126, Mary Ann Bear Heels McCowan, please.

22                 MR. DLEIN: Good afternoon, my name is

23

1       Greg Dlein. I represent the United Brotherhood of  
2       Carpenters and Joiners of America. And I would like  
3       to offer the full support of the carpenters union to  
4       build this pipeline. Thank you.

5       (Applause.)

6               MS. BEAR HEELS MCCOWAN: My name is Mary  
7       Ann Bear Heels McCowan. I'm a member of the Rosebud  
8       Sioux Tribe, and I am here today to say to Mr.  
9       Obama. Hea (phonetic) means no to this project.

10            It has no future, and it has no future for our  
11       children. And if you think about it, all the South  
12       Dakotans who live here in South Dakota, it has no  
13       future for you either.

14       (Applause.)

15            MR. STEELE: Ms. Deborah Hanrahan, please  
16       and Ms. Candace Ducheneaux, please. Okay, again,  
17       Deborah Hanrahan and Candace Ducheneaux? All right,  
18       Ms. Kandi Mossett and Rodney Bordeaux please?

19            MS. MOSSETT: (Says something in a Native  
20       American language) So hello, friends and relatives.  
21       My name is Eagle Woman, otherwise known as Kandi  
22       Mossett. I am Mandan, Hidasta Arikara, I traveled

23

1     here today from North Dakota.

2             First, I just want to stick with the facts here  
3     because I think that's what's the most important.  
4     TransCanada's own data supplied to the State  
5     Department states, "2,500 to 4,600 jobs will be  
6     created temporarily for two years."

7             There is strong evidence to suggest that a  
8     large portion of the primary material input for the  
9     Keystone XL, steel pipe, won't even be produced in  
10    the United States. A substantial amount of that  
11    pipe has already been manufactured.

12            You know, Keystone XL won't be a major source  
13    of jobs in the U.S.. Even if the figures were  
14    accurate, the Perryman Group study that was done,  
15    unemployment rate would remain at 9.1 percent.

16            You know, in 2010, U.S. pipeline spills and  
17    explosions killed 22 people and released over  
18    170,000 barrels of petroleum into the environment at  
19    a cost of 1 billion dollars worth of damages to the  
20    United States.

21            When people talk about ethical oil, tar sands  
22    development has attracted investment capital from

23

1 oil multi-nationals. Much of the tar sands oil will  
2 be refined in Port Arthur, Texas where the refinery  
3 is half owned by Saudi or Amaco, the state owned oil  
4 company of Saudi Arabia.

5 I mean, everybody needs to stand back and look  
6 at the reality of the situation that we're in here.  
7 The reality of the situation and the facts are oil  
8 is finite. It will end. Oil will run out, and here  
9 we are playing Russian Roulette with what's going to  
10 run out first, oil or water.

11 I fought the tar sands. I have friends that  
12 are battling cancer that can't be here because they  
13 are dying, because of what's happening in the tar  
14 sands. The most destructive project on the planet.  
15 You ought to go there to see the moon craters and  
16 see how bad it is. I'm from North Dakota where they  
17 are talking about this Bakken Formation, and I'm  
18 here to speak for those who can not speak for  
19 themselves.

20 My friend Cassie was 23 years old when a  
21 semitanker crushed her. My friend Jordie was 21  
22 years old when his accident killed him. And just

1     this past month, a whole family was killed. Those  
2     babies were three and five years old; their parents  
3     were twenty one and twenty six. Don't tell me that  
4     these pipelines aren't killing people because I have  
5     seen first hand that they are.

6           I want to speak to Barack Obama, not as the  
7     President of the United States, but as one human  
8     being to another. Barack, you were born with  
9     morals. You were born with common sense, and common  
10    sense dictates that you look at the bigger picture.

11          We can not drink oil. As human beings, we are  
12    over 70 percent water. We were born in water.  
13    Water is life. Everybody needs to understand the  
14    fundamental problem, the big picture. Take a step  
15    back and see, just envision a world where divide and  
16    conquer isn't the way to get things done.

17          I think it's ridiculous that they have people  
18    in here on one side and on the other side, when we  
19    are all human beings that all need to breathe air  
20    and drink water. There are so many older folks here  
21    who keep talking about the future. What about our  
22    kids? What about the youth? What about the future

23

1     that you're talking about?  Where are all of us?

2             Most of the folks ain't going to be here, but I  
3     urge you all to think as traditional, indigenous  
4     peoples do.  As a Mandan, Hidasta Arikara woman who  
5     works with a very small nonprofit called the  
6     Indigenous Environmental Network, I'm here to stand  
7     up and speak for all of those that can not speak for  
8     themselves.

9             Those fish that they are pulling out of the  
10    Athabasca River in Canada can't tell them, stop  
11    poisoning me, because they have sores and puss when  
12    you cut them open.  And the elders eat them, and  
13    they get sick, and they die.

14            This was prophesied you guys.  That's the scary  
15    part about it.  Seven generations ago and it's  
16    happening.  Open your eyes.  Wake up and see.  
17    There's two sides to every story, and people are  
18    dying.

19            The only way that they can guarantee a spill  
20    won't happen in the Keystone XL Pipeline is not to  
21    build the Keystone XL Pipeline, and to move away  
22    from oil, which will run out, no question.  Because  
23



1     there is a better way. And I'm here to tell you all  
2     today, use what's in here, in your heart. Use your  
3     mind and your morals, go at it from that angle. Not  
4     me, me, me, what I'm going to get now as a  
5     landowner. Think about the next seven generations.  
6     (Applause.)

7                 MR. BORDEAUX: Good afternoon, I'm Rodney  
8     Bordeaux, President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The  
9     Rosebud Sioux Tribe, since the TransCanada Pipeline  
10    was started a few years ago and now the XL, we stand  
11    in opposition. We stood in opposition to the  
12    TransCanada, and now, we stand in opposition to the  
13    XL. And we are recommending Secretary Hillary  
14    Clinton, we are recommending to President Barack  
15    Obama to deny the presidential permit.

16                This is based upon our oath that we took as a  
17    government official and as a tribal council. We  
18    have to look to our next seven generations. We are  
19    required to look out for them. And this pipeline  
20    and the impending disaster that people have talked  
21    about, that will come. We need to look out for our  
22    future generations, not only for our Indian tribes,  
23

1 but we support our neighbors that live next to us.

2 We have a group here that we are supporting.

3 The Keystone XL Pipeline goes through our  
4 treaty territories, 1868 treaty territories, and  
5 also goes through the northern part of our  
6 reservation, the Rosebud Sioux reservation.

7 We were not consulted on any part of the  
8 pipeline. The route that was taken went around some  
9 of our tribal trust lands, and they did that because  
10 they did not want to consult with us. Section 108  
11 of the Historic Preservation Act provides for  
12 consultation. We asked for that, and we were not  
13 given it.

14 In addition, I'm a member of the Great Plains  
15 Tribal Chairmen's Association. The Tribal  
16 Chairmen's Association from North, South Dakota and  
17 Nebraska, there's 15 tribal nations within this  
18 region. We unanimously opposed the permit also.

19 On September 16th, the First Nation's two  
20 Chiefs from Canada Northwest Territories and the  
21 Cree Nation out of Alberta, Canada, where the tar  
22 sands are located, they came to our reservation, and

23

1     we had a meeting with them. And we joined forces.  
2     They told us all the problems they were having up  
3     there and what's going to happen to their lands.  
4     And they urged us to support them in their efforts.  
5     We developed a Mother Earth Accord. It is going  
6     around here today, and it's basically asking all the  
7     signers, whether they are Indian, from Canada or the  
8     United States or any other citizens of this great  
9     country, to stand up and protect Mother Earth. So,  
10    that will be a part of my message that I send to  
11    you, Secretary Clinton, up to the President.

12           In addition, on the Rosebud, on our treaty  
13    lands as well as our reservation, we have a  
14    tremendous water source, the Ogallala Aquifer. We  
15    are on the northern tip of it. It runs all the way  
16    down to Texas. And if that's contaminated, it's  
17    going to destroy a very viable source of very good  
18    drinking water.

19           In addition to that, to the south in Nebraska,  
20    also our former treaty land, is the Niobrara River.  
21    And we have had friends and colleagues that come to  
22    Rosebud and ask for our support, and these guys live  
23

1 right on Two Brothers Game, and they live right on  
2 the Niobrara River, north of it. And they are very  
3 afraid that should there be a rupture in this pipe,  
4 it's going to contaminate a very beautiful and  
5 pristine river. Quality water, and under that lies  
6 the Ogallala Aquifer. We can not afford to lose  
7 this very valuable water source.

8 In addition, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is part of  
9 the Mini Wiconi Water Project, which has water  
10 coming out of the Missouri into the northern part of  
11 our reservation, where we are not covered by the  
12 Ogallala Aquifer. And the Mini Wiconi Pipeline  
13 Project is administered and contracted by the Oglala  
14 Sioux Tribe. We also have Rosebud Sioux Tribe,  
15 Lower Brule, and we have the rest over in Jones  
16 County, and the Keystone is asking for right of way.  
17 And they met on Tuesday of this week, and they  
18 denied a right of way. So, there is going to be a  
19 problem, initially, right there also.

20 And I know a lot of people talked about jobs,  
21 and I support jobs, and I respect the opposition,  
22 what they've said about having jobs, and I

1 appreciate that. However, I ask that it not be  
2 permitted.

3 The Rosebud Sioux tribe has a couple of wind  
4 projects that are ready to go, 190 megawatt wind  
5 farm in Northern Todd County, and also on the  
6 Nebraska border, we have a 30 megawatt wind farm  
7 with a tremendous opportunity for more wind  
8 development on our reservation. However, we are not  
9 getting any, I guess permits are, WAPA, the Western  
10 Area Power Administration, is not accepting any new  
11 development on their lines. So, that's a cleaner  
12 energy to be developed. Because what can happen,  
13 the potential for accidents is too great to really  
14 disturb a very valuable resource. Thank you very  
15 much.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. STEELE: Next on my list, please, is  
18 Lynn Thunder Bull and then Richard Wiederanders. Is  
19 Lynn here, Lynn Thunder Bull? Then Mr.  
20 Wiederanders, go ahead please.

21 MR. WIEDERANDERS: Good afternoon and  
22 thank you for this opportunity. My name is Richard

23

1     Wiederanders. I'm 87 years old. I've been on this  
2     subject for a long time.

3             Back in the 70's when I was teaching physics  
4     and engineering graphics in college, I was  
5     privileged to hear Amory Lovins, a Ph.D. in physics  
6     from England, who came over speaking for Friends of  
7     the Earth. And among the things he said was,  
8     "Nuclear energy is an interesting idea whose time  
9     has passed." He was right. They haven't built one  
10    since.

11            He said another thing, that we really needed to  
12    learn to save energy as much as to produce it. And  
13    he is probably personally responsible for the fact  
14    that we insulate our homes so much better now than  
15    we did then. Building with two by sixes instead of  
16    two by fours.

17            Amory Lovins has been, since then, head of  
18    Rocky Mountain Institute in Colorado, working to  
19    improve energy efficiency across the nation. He is  
20    one of my brains. His good book of the time was  
21    "Small is Profitable". His book looked at the fact  
22    that energy producing facilities would be getting

23

1 smaller and smaller. We weren't building such big  
2 ones any more. And he looked ahead, and he said  
3 that the time will come when the typical energy  
4 producing facility will be the home, where you will  
5 have your own. And the energy that you produce will  
6 be from the sun. What it will do is put water into  
7 hydrogen and oxygen, let oxygen go. The hydrogen is  
8 not explosive. It is nontoxic. It produces energy  
9 when you combine it with oxygen again and produce  
10 pure water.

11 I'm encouraged in the last year to see what has  
12 happened to the project since back in the '70s. I  
13 encourage you to get on the internet and put Dan  
14 Nocera, N-O-C-E-R-A, professor of chemistry at MIT.  
15 His subject is personalized energy. He has a lovely  
16 20 some minute presentation about the world's energy  
17 appetite, about 16 terawatts.

18 Do you know what a terawatt is? A kilowatt  
19 will run my chainsaw; 2 megawatts will run my town;  
20 1,000 megawatts make a gigawatt; 1,000 gigawatts  
21 make a terawatt. And 16 of those will run the whole  
22 darn world. He says the only possibility for

1 getting that much energy is hydrogen from sunshine.

2 And the only byproduct of this process is pure

3 water. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. STEELE: I'd like to call please, 136,

6 Mr. Larry Gunderson; 137, Ms. Tori Cox Bartels.

7 MR. GUNDERSON: My name is Larry

8 Gunderson, and I am an operating engineer, and I

9 work pipelines. And I don't know, after sitting  
10 here, what else could be said.

11 We need to guarantee our future somehow, and I  
12 agree with both sides on the issue. And I guess we  
13 need this pipeline. In my view, if we lost all our  
14 importability, if we need oil and couldn't import  
15 it, we couldn't take care of ourselves. And that's  
16 about all I've got to say. Except that old guy over  
17 there was really good.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. STEELE: Okay, again, Ms. Tori Cox

20 Bartels, are you here? Then next, I'm going to call

21 Mr. Rob Riess.

22 MR. RIESS: Good afternoon, Mr. Steele.

23



1 My name is Rob Riess. I'm president and chief  
2 operating officer of Sheehan Pipeline Construction  
3 Company. We are the nation's oldest pipeline  
4 constructor, over 108 years now in business.

5 I certainly respect and admire everyone who has  
6 spoken before me. I respect and admire the fact  
7 that we all have our own personal beliefs and that  
8 our great country affords us the opportunity to  
9 speak those.

10 I am here in support of the Keystone XL  
11 Project. Our company has had a relationship with  
12 TransCanada for the past three to four years. We  
13 appreciate that relationship, that partnership, that  
14 we have had with them. But what I'd really like to  
15 address today, this afternoon, with the crowd is  
16 that at some point, the State Department will reach  
17 a decision. And in my case, I have already said  
18 that I support this project, and I hope that it goes  
19 forward. Which I refer to as phase 2. The Phase 2  
20 of this project then lies on the people that were  
21 duly represented here in this room today. It lies  
22 on our company, Sheehan Pipeline. Should we be  
23

1     awarded some of this work, I can tell you, right  
2     now, that real facts, real numbers, that we will  
3     employ in excess of 2,000, somewhere between 2,000  
4     to 2,500 people in our company alone. Just to help  
5     assist in this project.

6             We really have four core values at Sheehan  
7     Pipeline, and these are four core values that are  
8     supported by TransCanada.

9             The first is training. We believe that you  
10    train the people to do the job the right way, the  
11    first time.

12            The second is safety. We believe that every  
13    employee that comes out to our pipeline goes home  
14    the same way they showed up that morning, and not  
15    only the employees, but the general public, the  
16    landowners, the ranchers, the Native Americans, the  
17    people that we will touch, the people that we will  
18    impact as we work through this project.

19            We talked a lot about pipeline failures. We  
20    talked a lot about leaks. Our company's core value  
21    number three is quality workmanship. We are  
22    committed to quality workmanship. It's something  
23

1     that we take a lot of pride in. It's something that  
2     we admire. It's something that we respect, the four  
3     crafts that were represented here today: the United  
4     Association, the Laborers, the Operating Engineers  
5     and the Teamsters. We, as a team, work to build  
6     these pipelines. As I said, we've been doing it for  
7     a lot of years. We take a lot of pride in what we  
8     do. And we know that this is a tremendous challenge  
9     for us.

10           And of course, the fourth and final core value  
11     we have related to the Keystone XL Project is  
12     environmental compliance. We understand the  
13     environment. We understand the sensitivities. We  
14     pride ourselves on trying to do that job the right  
15     way, the first time, and leaving the right of way,  
16     Mother Earth as it's been called today, in the way  
17     that it was before we ever showed up.

18           Those are the commitments that I, as president  
19     of the company, have to live with. Those are the  
20     commitments that we make to the people that are  
21     represented here today, whether you're part of the  
22     project or against the project.

1           As I said, we are in support of the project.

2       Mr. Steele, and more importantly, the law  
3       enforcement officers that are here today, we  
4       appreciate you're coming out, and I thank you for  
5       the opportunity.

6       (Applause.)

7           MR. STEELE: Can I call please, Mr. John,  
8       I believe it's Zaiko, and also Ms. Isabell Trobaugh?  
9       Again, John Zaiko and Isabell Trobaugh? Mr. Robert  
10      Freese and Mr. Kevin Solie.

11          MR. SOLIE: Good afternoon, my name is  
12      Kevin Solie. I'm a senior environmental analyst for  
13      Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, North  
14      Dakota.

15          Basin Electric appreciates this opportunity to  
16      speak in support of Keystone XL Pipeline. Basin  
17      Electric is a regional consumer owned power supplier  
18      formed in 1961 to provide power to a consortium of  
19      electric distribution cooperatives. Basin Electric  
20      supplies 135 rural electric member cooperative  
21      systems with wholesale electric power, who in turn,  
22      serve approximately 2.8 million customers in a nine

23

1 state area, including North Dakota, South Dakota and  
2 Montana.

3 The State Department should approve this  
4 project because it will strengthen our national  
5 security. It is important to reduce our oil imports  
6 from the Middle East and other volatile regions of  
7 the world. This pipeline is a way to do that.

8 The Bakken Market Link provides a way to supply  
9 Americans with domestic oil from Montana and the  
10 Dakota's. In addition, Canada has a stable,  
11 democratic government that has strict environmental  
12 standards. The oil from Canada and from the Bakken  
13 will help us reduce our dependence on oil from  
14 countries that are hostile to the U.S..

15 Ensuring a secure supply of oil is of critical  
16 importance to our co-op farmers, ranchers and  
17 agribusiness owner members, who lead the world in  
18 agricultural production. This stable supply of oil  
19 will help shield us from price disruptions caused by  
20 events beyond our control, like the turmoil we saw  
21 in the Middle East earlier this year.

22 Lastly, the environmental review effort was  
23

1 extensive and is consistent with the requirements of  
2 NEPA. Project impacts will be minimized within  
3 numerous, well thought out mitigation measures.

4 Basis Electric supports the pipeline and hopes  
5 that the State Department decides to approve the  
6 project as soon as possible. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. STEELE: Again, is Robert Freese here?  
9 Okay then, we will go on with Will Thomssen, please  
10 and Mr. Jason Maki. So, Will Thomssen please, and  
11 Jason Maki.

12 MR. THOMSEN: Good afternoon, Will  
13 Thomssen. I'm a member of the Local 49, and I think  
14 you've heard most every pros and cons today. So, my  
15 pro is let's get it done, and let's build it. Let's  
16 get it done now.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. MAKI: Hello, my name is Jason Maki,  
19 and I came here from Wisconsin today in support of  
20 this pipeline. It's a lot of jobs; it's a lot of  
21 money. I'm an operating engineer through Local 49.  
22 I've taken the training course. Let's lay some

23

1 pipe. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. STEELE: Faith Spotted Eagle please,  
4 and Glenn Drapeau.

5 MS. SPOTTED EAGLE: (Says something in a  
6 Native American Language) My name is Faith Spotted  
7 Eagle, I come here as a member of the Ihanktonwan  
8 Oyate Dakota Treaty Committee of our nation, a  
9 member of the Cultural Committee, as an elder and a  
10 grandmother and a mother.

11 I have a statement that I would like to submit,  
12 for you to take home with you, and I will give that  
13 to you. This is submitted on behalf of the Treaty  
14 Committee, representing the General Council of  
15 Ihanktonwan, the traditional tribal government body.

16 We have an old time traditional government.  
17 We're not an IRA tribe. That's important for you to  
18 put that on the record. The Ihanktonwan, Nakota  
19 Dakota, Oyate are a nation of indigenous peoples of  
20 the western hemisphere, who through inherent  
21 birthright are sovereign and are part of a  
22 confederation of member nations commonly referred to

23

1 as the Oceti Sakowin (phonetic) 7 Council Fires and  
2 referred to as the great Sioux Nation.

3 This confederation has been recognized as such  
4 in a bilateral agreement with U.S. Government and  
5 stated in a treaty made and concluded at Fort  
6 Laramie on September 17th, 1851.

7 As signers of the 1851 treaty, and you are on  
8 treaty lands, we can act and show act on any  
9 depredations occurring within the original  
10 indigenous treaty homelands by and through unanimous  
11 consent of the General Council of the Ihanktonwan .

12 The General Council of the Ihanktonwan has the  
13 responsibility to ensure the preservation and  
14 protection of our people against infringement and  
15 depredation on traditional and historical lands  
16 within routes of the Keystone Pipeline Projects,  
17 particularly those things that have the potential to  
18 injure our grandchildren.

19 The authors of this resolution were members of  
20 the Tribal Cultural Committee and the Treaty  
21 Committee. The resolution requested the need for a  
22 100 percent traditional cultural property survey of  
23



1     the entire Keystone development corridor, as it cuts  
2     a swath through historic Ihanktonwan lands,  
3     potentially destroying countless cultural resources  
4     and threatening the health of Dakota Nakota Lakota  
5     people's health, already infringed upon by diseases  
6     brought on by oppression.

7             The Department of State reacted with deaf ears,  
8     and the lawsuit was rejected. In the meantime, with  
9     the change of a Governing Business and Claims  
10    Committee, internal to the tribe, vested with  
11    day-to-day business, a TCP was conducted under the  
12    supervision of the BNC on a miniscule area of the  
13    Ihanktonwan territory.

14            The Treaty Committee and the Cultural Committee  
15    of the Ihanktonwan reject this TCP, as it was never  
16    presented or approved by the inherent authority.  
17    Nation to nation consultation did not occur with the  
18    general council and was shabbily conducted without  
19    methodology. It is not recognized as part of the  
20    consultation process with DOS. The Section 106  
21    process was violated.

22            Despite the 106 process, the Ihanktonwan  
23

1     adamantly oppose any pipeline development by  
2     TransCanada or other oil companies. We join, as  
3     other people have said today, our First Nation's  
4     relatives, tribal relatives, in opposing the plan to  
5     pump this toxic crude oil from the tar sands of  
6     Canada through our aboriginal tribal home lands.

7           I think that we are standing at a historic time  
8     in our history. We sit here with our nonnative  
9     relatives, who are farmers and ranchers. And for  
10    the first time, you are seeing something historic.  
11    That these two entities are standing together and  
12    they are telling you very, very clearly that the  
13    answer is no.

14           And so, we welcome these people that have come  
15    from other places, and we have compassion that you  
16    are looking for jobs. But I come from a nation  
17    where we have probably the highest unemployment rate  
18    in the nation. But despite that, we're willing to  
19    sacrifice that. We live with that. In spite of  
20    that, we survive. We have beautiful families. But  
21    we are willing to sacrifice that for the survival of  
22    this land for our grandchildren and, ultimately, the  
23

1 environment.

2       So, the jobs are not the presiding factor for  
3 us, our grandchildren are. And I share those words  
4 with you as a grandmother. I'd like to submit, and  
5 this will be on the written one, on behalf of  
6 opposing this pipeline from a tribal relative in  
7 Minnesota. Her name is Doctor Tiffany Beckman, and  
8 she is very, very concerned about the high rate of  
9 auto-immune disorders that are occurring in Indian  
10 country and development is occurring. The current  
11 word for it, of course, is environmental racism.  
12 Many of these developments occur near or on  
13 indigenous populations, and there is a high, high  
14 rate of auto-immune disorders occurring, like Lupas  
15 and Cancer.

16       Being a Cancer survivor myself since 1994, one  
17 of the things that I have learned is that the only  
18 people who appreciate wellness are people who have  
19 been sick. The people who are well and looking for  
20 those jobs have no recognition of that.

21       And this is from Doctor Beckman; she is a  
22 tribal doctor. "Benzene is a pathogen or toxin to

23

1 all living things. Benzene can cause bone marrow  
2 suppression, Leukemia and other cancers. It seeps  
3 through tissues and gets into our soil, plants and  
4 four leggeds and then into us two leggeds, and it  
5 stays there and causes health problems. We wonder  
6 why we have so-called auto-immune diseases at a high  
7 rate, where our immune systems attack our own  
8 organs, joints and, ultimately, our body. It is our  
9 body's natural defense against the world of  
10 pollution like Benzene that our cells are responding  
11 too this. Benzene from this pipeline will make us  
12 sick and will harm future generations. It will  
13 wreck our food supplies, water and will eventually  
14 destroy the living."

15 We ask you to take that very, very seriously,  
16 because it's nice to want a job today, to have that  
17 good car and that good home. But ultimately, we are  
18 here because we think in terms of seven generations.  
19 We are also speaking for our grandchildren. And  
20 many of those grandchildren are not yet born

21 In conclusion, the Ihanktonwan Treaty Committee  
22 and Cultural Committees representing the General

1 Council, which is an inherent authority of the  
2 Ihanktonwan or the Yankton, will continue to stand  
3 in solidarity with the Sicangu Oglala Sisseton,  
4 First Nations and other tribal relative standing  
5 strong against this homeland. And I deeply  
6 appreciate the comments made by the Indigenous  
7 Environmental Network, who represents many, many of  
8 our people. The DOS must clean their ears and hear  
9 us. We live here and do not want this for our  
10 children to inherit.

11 It's important that you stop now, and you must  
12 listen. Your children will also be affected. It is  
13 natural law. We will submit this document. I've  
14 come here with my older son. On behalf of the  
15 Treaty Delegation of the Ihanktonwan Oyate, we hope  
16 that you will take this seriously. As an elder of  
17 my nation, I've come here to bring this message to  
18 you, and my son follows me. (Says something in a  
19 Native American language.) Thank you.  
20 (Applause.)

21 MR. DRAPEAU: (Says something in a Native  
22 American language.) I come from the Ihanktonwan  
23

1 Nation, the Yankton Sioux peoples, located here in  
2 this state of South Dakota. So, I want to share  
3 with the relatives here that you are in Dakota  
4 territory, and I come from and represent an  
5 indigenous nation of the Ihanktonwan peoples. And  
6 we and Ihanktonwan, along with other relatives in  
7 the Oceti Sakowin oppose the Keystone Pipeline and  
8 Keystone XL.

9 We come here, as nations, to speak with one  
10 voice, to share with the Department of State and the  
11 Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, along with  
12 President Obama, that we need to be heard with this,  
13 that we do not want this pipeline. And we are  
14 looking forward to the generations of individuals  
15 who have not been born, in that, this 1,700 miles of  
16 pipeline is going to be coming onto Mother Earth,  
17 and it's been stated that 100 percent avoidance of  
18 spillage and contamination of Mother Earth is that  
19 avoidance of building this pipeline.

20 So, we ask that you hear that in that common  
21 sense, and also to share with your relatives. In  
22 1851, the Treaty of Fort Laramie was signed, and we  
23

1 as Ihanktonwan peoples share this indigenous  
2 territory as relatives with you relatives as good  
3 relatives. And with that treaty came 17.5 million  
4 acres that came all the way from Minnesota, Iowa,  
5 the Mississippi River, all the way over into  
6 Wyoming, Montana, up into Canada, where this  
7 pipeline is now from, down to Kansas.

8 And so, in May 28, 2008, at the inception of  
9 this pipeline, we opposed this, and we went into the  
10 judiciary system, and we asked them to not build  
11 this and to not consider this building of this  
12 pipeline. And so, now we're here to ask for the  
13 consideration of life. We don't need jobs. In  
14 order to have a job, you have to have life. And  
15 those jobs, if you are unhealthy and you are  
16 carrying these diseases that are caused by the  
17 carcinogenic atoms within this oil and the tar  
18 sands, that's something that is very detrimental.  
19 As a human being, we ask that you consider that with  
20 the Benzene contamination.

21 And so also, we come here with a united voice  
22 of the Oceti to say that we oppose this pipeline,

1     and we ask that you hear us on this. (Says something  
2     in a Native American language.)

3     (Applause.)

4                 MR. STEELE: Next on my list, please, are  
5     Ms. Natalie Hand, and Ms. Lana Gravatt, Gravatt,  
6     sorry. Natalie Hand and Lana Gravatt.

7                 MR. STEELE: Okay, yes please.

8                 MS. GRAVATT: Hello, my name is Lana  
9     Gravatt. I serve as the tribal historic  
10    preservation officer for the Yankton Sioux Tribe. I  
11    have held this position since September 2009, and a  
12    lot of it is consulting with federal agencies who  
13    are asking for federal funds to do projects within  
14    our ancestral lands.

15                And it is pretty clear to this point that none  
16    of the federal agencies understand what the trust  
17    responsibility is, nor do they care; I don't think.  
18    And also the environmental impact statements, all  
19    those negotiations and consultations, those are  
20    meant to get projects through, not to protect  
21    anything, okay.

22                You know the trust responsibility, there are

23



1     many issues on that, but the main ones are health,  
2     education and housing. And this being a health  
3     risk, I believe, as far as my opinion as a tribal  
4     historic preservation officer, let alone the history  
5     of this country with our tribes, you guys, well, the  
6     Department of State would be in breach of that  
7     trust.

8             You're putting the tribes in the position, we  
9     just came through a history of intentional genocide,  
10    and we survived it. You're putting us in a position  
11    where we don't know what to do. We don't have our  
12    places to practice our culture. That is it is the  
13    landscape. It is the water, the air, and it's all  
14    elements included. And if we don't have that, we  
15    don't have clean air and clean water, we can't  
16    exist. We can't pray to the Great Spirit. That's  
17    our communication, the environment. And if you are  
18    going to destroy the environment, I take that  
19    personally.

20            As far as I'm concerned, what I heard today,  
21    South Dakota has spoken, and it has spoken against  
22    it. Everybody, the majority that did come and who  
23

1     are for it are not even from South Dakota. So you  
2     need to look at that, and discount those votes if  
3     that's possible. And I have some veterans ask me,  
4     "How is it that a state is given authority to  
5     approve eminent domain for a foreign country?" How  
6     is it that each state has it's own process, and what  
7     is that process? Nobody knows. Where is that  
8     information? That should be something that should  
9     be brought to the public, and the public should  
10    decide. Thank you.

11    (Applause.)

12               MR. STEELE: Next on the list, I have  
13    Debra White Plume please, and Michael Jandreau.

14               MR. JANDREAU: You know so many words have  
15    been said here today that are important, I'm sure.  
16    Hopefully, those in opposition will cause the  
17    president and secretary to think about the real  
18    impacts that will occur to people. You've heard all  
19    of the issues. Those issues are real. They are not  
20    just figments of conversation. They are not just  
21    fillers.

22               The reality of what can occur has been proven.

23

1     The value of what has been said is real. The  
2     environment and the impacts we have been subjected  
3     to. How are we impacted? We are impacted because  
4     our land will be used as a power source  
5     transportation line. That will create greater  
6     hardship for us as an individual entity.

7             We are not talking only for the purpose of  
8     talking. We are talking, hoping, that for once,  
9     just once, the federal government will recognize  
10    their responsibility, look at this issue and deal  
11    with it in the right and fair way.

12            If it's not dealt with in that way, we will  
13    lose. We will lose as we have in every other  
14    federal agreement that we've had. So please, take  
15    into consideration our tribal views in this whole  
16    issue. Listen to us. Thank you.

17            MR. STEELE: Before you go, would you  
18    state your name please, just for the record?

19            MR. JANDREAU: My name is Michael  
20    Jandreau. I'm the Chairman of the Lower Brule Sioux  
21    Tribe.

22    (Applause.)

23

1                   Mr. STEELE: Thank you very much. I  
2 believe next on my list is Dennis Hemenover and  
3 following him is Russ Scherber, please.

4                   MR. HEMENOVER: My name is Dennis  
5 Hemenover. I represent Local 192 of the Local  
6 Plumbers and Pipefitters United Association. I  
7 represent members in Wyoming, Western South Dakota  
8 and the Panhandle of Nebraska.

9                   We stand in support of this pipeline. I've  
10 heard a lot of things said today, and I obviously  
11 can not add any more to it, other than the fact that  
12 the membership I represent has experienced nearly  
13 fifty percent unemployment over the last two to  
14 three years, and these people need these jobs. So  
15 again, we stand in support of this pipeline. Thank  
16 you.

17 (Applause.)

18                   MR. STEELE: Is Russ Scherber here please?  
19 Okay, I have next is Kevin Nelson and George Biggs,  
20 Nicholas Nemec, Terry Richards, please.

21                   MR. NELSON: Hello, I'm Kevin Nelson from  
22 Brookings, South Dakota, and I lived there 20 years.

23

1     My first 30 years was in Tripp County, and the  
2     pipeline moves through there. And I was raised on a  
3     farm/ranch in Tripp county, and my neighbors who are  
4     still there support this XL Pipeline. I believe  
5     this pipeline will lessen our dependence on middle  
6     eastern oil and if it does not proceed, the tar  
7     sands oil will probably go to the Pacific and to  
8     China. And anyway, I just support this pipeline.  
9     The Northern Border Pipeline Company has operated  
10    natural gas pipelines in Eastern South Dakota for  
11    many decades, and I haven't heard any big problems  
12    with that.

13           But I drove from Brookings, 190 miles. And  
14    just as long as we're still burning gasoline, I  
15    guess we need to find it and refine it. So, thank  
16    you.

17    (Applause.)

18           MR. NEMEC: My name is Nicholas Nemec, and  
19    I'm a rancher from Holabird, South Dakota. I'm also  
20    a former legislator for the state of South Dakota.  
21    When I was in the legislature, I always had a 100  
22    percent pro union voting record, as judged by the  
23

1 South Dakota Federation of Labor. And let me tell  
2 you, in rural South Dakota a 100 percent pro union  
3 voting record is not necessarily something you  
4 advertise.

5 (Laughter.)

6 But I had that record, and I was proud to have  
7 it. But I'm sorry to say that today I have to stand  
8 up in opposition to these hard working union people  
9 here. I'm concerned about pipe strength and the  
10 protection of the aquifers and rivers that the  
11 pipeline will cross.

12 The Ogallala Aquifer is the largest and most  
13 important agricultural aquifer in the United States,  
14 providing irrigation water for millions of acres and  
15 drinking water for millions of head of livestock and  
16 wildlife and hundreds of thousands of people. In  
17 many places, the Ogallala Aquifer is within just a  
18 few feet of the surface. Placing an oil pipeline on  
19 top of this shallow aquifer is foolhardy and begging  
20 for disaster.

21 The Keystone Pipeline that runs through Eastern  
22 South Dakota was predicted to have only one spill in  
23

1     seven years. Instead, there were 12 spills in one  
2     year. A rate 84 times higher than predicted.

3             Water is more important than oil. Please deny  
4     the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline.  
5     (Applause.)

6             MR. RICHARDS: (Says something in a Native  
7     American language.) Big Back Bear is my Lakota name  
8     and my Wasichu name or my government name is Terry  
9     Richards, and I'm a card holding member of the  
10    Oglala Sioux Tribe.

11            Today, I drive from the Bighorn Mountains in  
12    Wyoming, and I am also a working man. But this  
13    ain't a good thing to do. This reminds me of 9/11,  
14    because you're going to allow a foreign company to  
15    come in here and contaminate our water and poison  
16    us. Isn't this what the terrorists have been trying  
17    to do for how long?

18            You guys are crazy. When the money runs out of  
19    this job, where are you going to get you next job?  
20    I think it's time to start looking for something  
21    new. I come from one of the poorest counties in the  
22    country. I was raised poor. I'm uneducated, but  
23

1     today, I own a home in Wyoming in the Bighorn  
2     Mountains. I'm the only one in my family that has  
3     gotten off the reservation without permission from  
4     this government and moved off the reservation, raise  
5     a family.

6             In Wyoming, all you've got to do is go look  
7     around Wyoming to see the damage that a pipeline  
8     could do. Look at the Powder River. Every  
9     cottonwood tree on the Powder River is dead because  
10    of methane. There's a place where I like to walk;  
11    it's an old ancient Indian campground with teepee  
12    rings. I go up there and walk, and there is a  
13    pipeline that runs right on the side of it. And the  
14    man, the rancher irrigates right above that  
15    pipeline, and when you walk through that field  
16    there's just oil all in that water. You can see it  
17    coming right on the surface.

18            So, no matter how safe you say it's going to  
19    be, it's never 100 percent. And as a spiritual  
20    person, in my culture, I believe that we have people  
21    that can bring us water, make water out of dirt. So,  
22    to all of you people that are for this pipeline, we  
23



1     ain't going to feed you this time. My people ain't  
2     going to feed you; we ain't going to give you water  
3     this time, like we did the last time you invaded our  
4     country and our shores. (Says something in a Native  
5     American language.)  
6     (Applause.)

7                   MR. BIGGS: My name is George Biggs.  
8     Thank you for holding this hearing in Pierre. I  
9     live here. I'm a Korean Conflict veteran and a 55  
10    year, so far, member of the International  
11    Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

12                  What does electrical work involve? The short  
13    answer is everything the light shines on. So, here  
14    I am. I came to Pierre to build the Owyhee Dam.  
15    About 3,000 guys worked on it over about 15 years; I  
16    got 9 years of it. Pierre was a boom town. Some  
17    bad elements were here, a tiny minority. People  
18    were here to work. I met my future wife here, got  
19    married and had four kids. I worked in other  
20    places, but Pierre was my home base. Some items  
21    that need to be addressed. I'll state right off the  
22    bat, I support building the pipeline.

23

1           Regarding the refinery. Why don't they build a  
2   refinery up in Canada? Well, we've got refineries  
3   down in Texas that are already built. The other  
4   thing is it takes about 15 years to build one. And  
5   when you get it built, if supposedly it was built up  
6   by the tar sands, you would still need a pipeline to  
7   bring the oil down.

8           Another item I think needs to be addressed is  
9   where money comes from. Where does new money come  
10  from? You know you can have a service industry  
11  where, say two guys, one cuts hair, the other  
12  shovels the snow and so forth, and they pass that  
13  dollar back and forth. Those guys, they have to buy  
14  groceries, and they have to buy gas and all the  
15  other things. So, elementary economics says that  
16  new money comes from agriculture, manufacturing and  
17  mining.

18          Well agriculture, we know how that is. And we  
19  get to manufacturing, and we find a lot of our jobs  
20  have gone to China. When it get to mining, mining  
21  includes oil too. And you get this cheap energy,  
22  supposedly, out of the ground, and you can use it in  
23

1     your manufacturing and anyway, everybody is better  
2     off. You've got to have that new money coming in.

3             Money doesn't come from Washington. Washington  
4     gets its money from the people. So, we have here  
5     the Owyhee Dam and Power Plant. This puts out cheap  
6     energy, cheapest there is, hydropower.

7             And I'll get into another little thing here, on  
8     the windmills. The wind is blowing, sure. Anyway,  
9     with the windmills, they have these take or pay  
10    contracts. And WAPA, that's the Western Area Power  
11    Administration, administers these, and they've got  
12    to pay for the windmill power as long as the wind is  
13    blowing, whether they take the generation or not.

14            Now, in the same line to give WAPA that chance  
15    to take the wind generation, and this wind  
16    generation is not cheap. It's very expensive. But  
17    it gets averaged in to the other power costs, so you  
18    don't notice it.

19            But out here at the Owyhee Dam, right now they  
20    are spilling water out of the outlet tunnels and the  
21    generators, half of them or more, are standing idle.  
22    Does that make sense? Not hardly.

23

1           And then we get to man made climate change,  
2   that's a crock. Twelve thousand years ago, we had  
3   the last big glacier. After the glacier receded,  
4   which by the way, it stopped at the Missouri River  
5   and backed up and made this Lake Aggesi on the edge  
6   of North Dakota and the tip of the northeast corner  
7   of South Dakota. A huge lake stretched through  
8   North Dakota clear up into Canada. The largest  
9   freshwater lake in the world. And it drained in  
10   different directions over the years. It was there  
11   for 4,000 years, and then it found its drainage  
12   through the Red River channel up into Hudson Bay and  
13   drained off in one year. That's climate change.

14           Talk about risk. I almost got hit by a car  
15   yesterday, a woman driver. I was crossing the  
16   street; she made a short turn headed right at me. I  
17   couldn't get out of the way. She made the  
18   correction.

19           And then we get another item on risk. These 12  
20   oil spills that some people talk about, one of them  
21   had 20,000 gallons. That's a truckload. And  
22   suppose we had all these trucks go extra slow across  
23

1 the roads that are involved with the Ogallala  
2 Aquifer?

3 So, going a little further, the administration  
4 has avoided drilling new oil wells, has done all  
5 they could to stop oil wells in the U.S.. In North  
6 Dakota, one of these oil companies is subject to a  
7 fine for like 28 ducks that died in one of their  
8 water pits anyway, contaminated water pits. Twenty  
9 eight ducks, but nobody says anything about the  
10 birds that are hit by the windmills.

11 So with that, I'll call it good. Thank you.  
12 (Applause.)

13 MR. STEELE: Ladies and gentlemen, I have  
14 reached the end of my list.  
15 (Applause and laughter.)

16 Hold on back there. It is entirely possible  
17 that I failed to call somebody's name. If you  
18 signed up, but for some reason I didn't call you, or  
19 you had stepped outside when I called you. If you  
20 would like to speak, if you have previously signed  
21 in, would you please come up, state your name and  
22 speak.

23

1           Okay. If there is anybody in the room, whether  
2   they signed up or not, would like to speak, then we  
3   would certainly be prepared to listen to your  
4   comments. Yes, would you come up and say your name,  
5   so we can get it down? Yes. What is the name  
6   again, please?

7           MS. DAVIS: Ila Davis, I-L-A.

8           MR. STEELE: Davis?

9           MS. DAVIS: Yes. I came today to listen  
10   and to learn. After listening - - I did not come to  
11   speak, I just wanted to learn. I am from Edmunds  
12   County, the Northern Natural Gas Line goes through  
13   our school district. It has a cooling station  
14   there. It's been there for years. It's been an  
15   asset to our school district. They have now, using  
16   the steam from the cooling process, and are  
17   supplying their own electricity for the plant and  
18   the excess goes to the power company as I understand  
19   it.

20           We have highways. We have accidents. We have  
21   deaths. Does that mean that we shouldn't be driving  
22   a car? We shouldn't be on a highway?

23

1           We need gas. We need this if we are going to  
2   continue with our cars. And it's going to take a  
3   long time before South Dakotans are going to be  
4   ready and hybrid cars are going to be ready for our  
5   South Dakota winters.

6           I'm in favor of this power line going through.  
7   (Applause.)

8           MR. STEELE: Is there anybody else who  
9   would like to take advantage of this opportunity?  
10   Yes, please.

11           MS. WALN: My name is Viola Waln.

12           MR. STEELE: Could you repeat that, Viola?

13           MS. WALN: Viola Waln, W-A-L-N.

14           MR. STEELE: Okay.

15           MS. WALN: I'm here representing Mother  
16   Earth. My tribal chairman spoke earlier this  
17   afternoon, from Rosebud. He talked about how our  
18   constitution mandates that we look seven generations  
19   ahead. That's something that my ancestors did.  
20   They looked seven generations ahead to me. So in  
21   following their steps, I look seven generations  
22   ahead to whoever is standing here in 150 years, if  
23

1     there is anything left to stand on.

2             I hear a lot of people talking about how we  
3     need, we need, we need. I just want the Earth to  
4     live. I'll give up my car. I'll give up all the  
5     petroleum products that I still think I need to use  
6     so the Earth can live, so that my descendents can  
7     stand here in 150 years and fight for the water and  
8     the air and the fire and the earth, because without  
9     these we won't have a life. Your grandchildren and  
10    mine, Mr. Steele, will not have a life.

11            President Obama, Secretary Clinton, their  
12    grandchildren, their unborn descendants will not  
13    have a life if we continue to dig up the Earth and  
14    put in pipes and put in wires, just to take out  
15    these finite sources. They're not resources.  
16    They're sources, and they can't be replaced.

17            A resource is something that we can replace,  
18    sources aren't, a source is a source. Once that  
19    source is gone, it's gone. So, I want my water. I  
20    want my air, and I want my Earth to be clean for my  
21    grandkids. Because when I pray, I pray out on the  
22    prairie, under the sun with no water, with the wind

23



1     in my face. And I pray that my seven generations  
2     coming can stand there and pray on a clean prairie  
3     the way I have for all of my life, the way my  
4     ancestors did.

5           I think some people should think about what  
6     it's like to go without water for four days, because  
7     that's pretty hard. We take water for granted. It  
8     comes out of a tap. We drink it. We just drink it,  
9     spill it down a sink, throw it out, don't give  
10    thanks to it.

11           How many people actually give thanks for the  
12    water? President Obama, Secretary Clinton, do you  
13    say a prayer for your water in the morning? Because  
14    I do. Most indigenous of this continent do. And  
15    that's why we're all standing up in protest.  
16    Because it's not about what we need, it's about what  
17    we want. We want our water to be clean for our  
18    children.

19           Thank you all for coming to South Dakota, for  
20    spending time in our treaty lands today. Because as  
21    far as a lot of my people are concerned, the 1868,  
22    1851 treaties are still in effect, still intact. We  
23

1 still look to these lands as something that we were  
2 put here to protect, and that's why we came here  
3 today. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 Mr. STEELE: Now this today's meeting,  
6 this particular meeting is slated to go until 8:00  
7 o'clock. So my colleagues and I will remain here  
8 until then. But it does appear like we have run  
9 through, certainly, the list of people that have  
10 come to this point.

11 A couple of things I do want to reiterate. As  
12 you've seen, we have recorded all of your comments.  
13 We have accepted written comments from those of you  
14 who wish to leave them. And I suspect that a number  
15 of folks whose names I called had already left, and  
16 instead of waiting to make their comments orally,  
17 have written those comments on the information  
18 sheets that we provided and have turned them in.

19 I want to assure you that whether your comments  
20 were made orally or whether they were given in  
21 written form or both, they will be factored into the  
22 decision. They will be considered as this decision

23

1 process goes forward.

2 Again, to this point in time, there is no  
3 decision. We called this meeting because we wanted  
4 to hear from you folks as to your views about this  
5 pipeline. We recognize there are a multitude of  
6 those views. I think they run the spectrum from  
7 opposed entirely to entirely in favor of the  
8 pipeline. We will have to try to weigh them in the  
9 decision making process.

10 In any event, we appreciate you all taking the  
11 time to come and to deliver your remarks, to convey  
12 them in written form. Again, you also have the  
13 opportunity, others that you may know have the  
14 opportunity to submit comments by fax, by letter, by  
15 e-mail or online up to October 9th. Up to October  
16 9th.

17 So, thank you all very much. It was a good set  
18 of meetings, I think there are good meetings. I  
19 appreciate all of your comments, and I would most  
20 particularly like to thank our local law enforcement  
21 authorities that stood watch over us all and helped  
22 to conduct the meetings in fine fashion.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 Okay, so certainly, you're welcome to stay and  
3 keep us company, but you don't need to. But my  
4 personal thanks to all of you for coming and for  
5 giving us your views. We appreciate it greatly.  
6 Thank you.

7 (WHEREUPON, A break was taken.)

8 MR. STEELE: For the record, can you state  
9 your name, please.

10 MS. SCHOEN-CARBONNEAX: Laura  
11 Schoen-Carbonneax, CEO of the Pierre Area Chamber of  
12 Commerce. And I apologize for being late. I had  
13 conferences and business after hours and everything.

14 So, on behalf of the Pierre Area Chamber of  
15 Commerce, I encourage Secretary of State Clinton to  
16 recommend President Obama approve the Keystone XL  
17 Pipeline Project. My report echoes the information  
18 you've already heard today about the need for jobs  
19 and independence from importing foreign oil.

20 I would like to add a few more points for your  
21 consideration. We have an ongoing discussion in  
22 South Dakota about the need to add jobs, increase

23

1 school funding and look for new revenue coming into  
2 the state. It appears this pipeline project  
3 provides momentum in the right direction in each  
4 area.

5 The pipeline would add an estimated 470 million  
6 dollars in new spending for our state's economy. It  
7 will provide additional state and local tax revenues  
8 of more than 10 million dollars. Some of which will  
9 go back to the schools. It will involve more than  
10 5,100 person years of employment. For those who say  
11 these are temporary jobs, I submit a job, even  
12 temporary, is better than no job at all.

13 On the local level, even though Pierre is not  
14 directly on the pipeline's route, we expect to  
15 benefit indirectly from the work being done. During  
16 the construction phase in Central South Dakota,  
17 there might be an opportunity for some of our local  
18 contractors to bid on and be awarded some of the  
19 work.

20 Pierre is the largest community in Central  
21 South Dakota. During the construction phase,  
22 workers will need a place to headquarter. Even if

1 Pierre isn't selected in that capacity, we expect to  
2 benefit from the workers' downtime. There is likely  
3 a possibility of our local hotels, restaurants, gas  
4 stations and small businesses to benefit from the  
5 project during the construction phase.

6 I asked a colleague in Aberdeen, South Dakota  
7 how her community faired during the construction of  
8 the Keystone Project in the eastern part of the  
9 state. Her reply was that, even though Aberdeen was  
10 25 miles away from any of the construction, her  
11 community was, "One hopping place while work was  
12 going on."

13 The company put their headquarters operation in  
14 Aberdeen, and many of their workforce chose to live  
15 and play there. Nearly every campground was  
16 occupied by recreational vehicles used by the work  
17 force. The food and beverage establishments, as  
18 well as the arts and cultural events, recreation  
19 events and all other forms of entertainment felt the  
20 impact of their extended presence in their  
21 community.

22 Yes, this is temporary revenue. However,

23

1     dollars to the businesses and tax revenue to our  
2     city go a long way, especially as many of our  
3     businesses and our cities up here in Pierre struggle  
4     with how to pay for the millions of dollars it will  
5     cost to rebuild after this summer's temporary flood.

6           This is one more point I would like to add, and  
7     this is more of a personal note. I'm a lifelong  
8     resident of South Dakota. I was concerned about the  
9     possibility of leaks in the pipeline, and I have the  
10    children, and I want them to have clean air and  
11    clean water and all those things that go along with  
12    it.

13           So, when I heard that there were 12 leaks that  
14    had happened with the Keystone Project in my home  
15    state, I was a little concerned, and I did do some  
16    checking.

17           Upon further research, I learned the total  
18    amount of oil from the spills was 37 gallons. The  
19    smallest was two gallons. The largest was twenty  
20    gallons. So 4 of the 12 leaks did happen in South  
21    Dakota, resulted in 37 gallons of oil spilled. None  
22    of which affected the ground water. And when you

1     consider the large volumes of oil going through the  
2     pipeline, 37 gallons seems to be a minimal amount.

3             For our local economy, for our state and for  
4     our country, please approve the project.

5             MR. STEELE:   Thank you very much.

6             MS. SCHOEN-CARBONNEAX:   Thank you.

7             MR. STEELE:   Could we get the spelling of  
8     your last name please?

9             MS. SCHOEN-CARBONNEAX:   First part is  
10    S-C-H-O-E-N, dash C-A-R-B-O-N-N-E-A-X.

11            Mr. STEELE: That's an interesting  
12    combination.   Thanks a lot.

13    (WHEREUPON, A break was taken.)

14            MS. TROBOUGH:   My name is Isabel Trobough,  
15    I'm from Elk Point, South Dakota.   Go ahead?

16            MR. STEELE:   Yes, please.

17            MS. TROBAUGH:   I come before you today as  
18    a concerned citizen as to whether or not to support  
19    the second oil pipeline from Canada.   As you know,  
20    oil is already being pumped through the first one in  
21    South Dakota.   When the people of Union County voted  
22    in favor of building the first oil refinery in many

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1     years, which is six or seven miles north of the city  
2     of Elk Point, we heard the same rhetoric that you  
3     are hearing today.

4           Every area that was mentioned in the brochures  
5     about how bad the air quality was going to be, we  
6     were able to disprove everything. We were told that  
7     in El Dorado, Arkansas, which has two refineries on  
8     the outskirts of town, a hazardous chemical waste  
9     incinerator and a chicken factory within city  
10    limits, the air quality was very bad.

11          I received a seven year quality survey, which  
12    was monitored by EPA 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,  
13    with not one bad hour of air quality in the whole  
14    seven years. The water in the river that runs by  
15    there was also not contaminated.

16          We were also told this would bring a high rate  
17    of Cancer. Well, 20 years ago in the southeastern  
18    part of South Dakota, we were called a hot spot for  
19    Cancer. At that time, we had no refineries, no  
20    pipelines.

21          This pipeline will be built with the very  
22    latest technology and sensors that were not

1     available before. Today, we have 12 percent less  
2     carbon in the air then we had 2 years ago.

3             Carbon or CO2 can be captured. We have the  
4     largest capture of carbon in the world at Bismarck,  
5     North Dakota. Over 17 millions tons of carbon have  
6     been shipped to Canada through a 206 mile pipeline.  
7     This carbon is being used in the mining of the oil  
8     and the tar sands.

9             We need to become oil independent and get out  
10    from under the thumb of middle eastern countries.  
11    Once the Middle East realizes that we are serious  
12    about using our own resources and becoming  
13    independent, they will reduce their prices of oil  
14    and gasoline and the grocery prices will all come  
15    down.

16            This will ba a great advantage to our lower  
17    income and senior citizens. With the high  
18    unemployment rate that we have today, this pipeline  
19    will provide a huge amount of good jobs, which will  
20    put many of our unemployed, who are begging for  
21    jobs, back to work.

22            Can we guarantee that this pipeline will be 100

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1     percent free of problems? Of course not. Nothing  
2     is 100 percent. Life itself is not 100 percent free  
3     of risks. Are we willing to take the slight risk to  
4     become energy independent from countries that don't  
5     like us very much or at all?

6             With the modern technology we have today, we  
7     have nothing to fear but fear itself. Being energy  
8     independent is a win/win for this great country of  
9     ours. Thank you for your time.

10            MR. STEELE: Thank you very much,  
11     appreciate it.

12            MS. TROBOUGH: I was part of testifying  
13     with an oil refinery in Elk Point, South Dakota,  
14     which has been approved. The air quality permit was  
15     approved the other day, 100 percent unanimously.  
16     Thank you.

17            MR. STEELE: Thank you.

18     (WHEREUPON, A break was taken.)

19            MR. STEELE: Okay, for the record, would  
20     you please state your name.

21            MR. IN THE WOODS: Good evening, my name  
22     is Bryce In The Woods. I represent the Cheyenne

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1 River Sioux Tribe. I'm an elected Council  
2 Representative on our Tribal Council, and the Wol  
3 (phonetic) Lakota Chairman on one of our committees  
4 for our tribal government. And I'd like to direct  
5 my words to President Barack Obama and Secretary of  
6 State Hillary Clinton.

7 For are hundreds, thousands of years my people  
8 have been here on this Turtle Island, and at one  
9 time, the land, the air and the water was actually a  
10 Garden of Eden. All benefited, all lived on this  
11 land. And our people, Wichita, Lakota Sisseton, and  
12 the Oceti Sakowin go all the way up to into Canada,  
13 and we cover a vast territory, as the treaties will  
14 recognize that, the 1851, 1868.

15 And every since that time, it seems that there  
16 has been a constant taking, a constant giving, and  
17 for my grandfathers and great grandfathers and for  
18 my constituents and my people right now that are  
19 living on the reservation, our headquarters on Eagle  
20 Butte, and for the coming generations.

21 Again, this Garden of Eden is not the Garden of  
22 Eden any more. And I'd like the President, Barack

1     Obama, and Secretary Hillary Clinton to know that  
2     the concerns here are coming from the original  
3     people of this land. And we see no benefit. We can  
4     see desecration of sacred lands. Water, the concern  
5     is water.

6             When we had a conference call with the State  
7     Department and TransCanada officials in April, they  
8     were mentioning no spills. My concern was the way  
9     the Earth is changing. What is your contingency if  
10    there is an earthquake? And we have earthquakes in  
11    this area now. So, this is a warning that needs to  
12    be heeded by the Commander in Chief, coming from the  
13    original peoples. That they told us in April,  
14    there's no spills. The very next month my concerns  
15    were confirmed and spills in rivers. And that's a  
16    concern. We call it Mini Waconi, the water of life.  
17    This is constantly being polluted.

18            So unless TransCanada and all those  
19    corporations, those multinational corporations, can  
20    clean the water for the things that are going to  
21    happen, that they are going to create, they need to  
22    be held accountable. Unless they can clean that

1 water that they pollute, I respectfully request  
2 President Obama, Secretary Clinton not to sign that  
3 permit.

4 We oppose this second Keystone Pipeline. We've  
5 sent our resolution in, and I have another  
6 resolution here to turn in for the record. And it's  
7 kind of a hard day to see that again. There's pro's  
8 and con's, but coming from our people here, we are  
9 seeing things here. They call it rural America,  
10 but we're seeing things that need to stop now. And  
11 if it doesn't stop, then the people are going to  
12 suffer. And that's what this is about, the people  
13 suffering. We don't need that no more.

14 I think America is greater than that, and I  
15 think there's technology there that needs to come  
16 out. So again, I ask for President Obama and  
17 Secretary Clinton to look at those patents that are  
18 suppressing technology that would be beneficial to  
19 mankind. And right now, it is for the greater good  
20 of mankind that I stand here before you, talking to  
21 the Secretary of State and to our President, that  
22 please, with a sincere heart, there has to be

23

1 solutions today when there is something of our  
2 concern, like the water and what's going to happen  
3 if this goes through.

4       So, heed the warning. And there's many things  
5 I'd like to say. This land is asking, respectfully,  
6 to oppose this second pipeline and lead to what it  
7 is going to do the waters. And I thank you for the  
8 time, and I'll submit our resolution for the record  
9 from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. (Says  
10 something in a Native American Language.)  
11 (WHEREUPON the proceedings were concluded at 8:00  
12 p.m.)

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